Credits

Piece of Cake 1

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Piece of Cake
George ASAKURA
1

1

ジョージ朝倉

George Asakura

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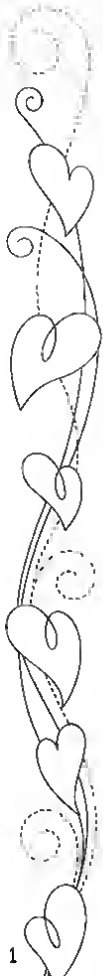
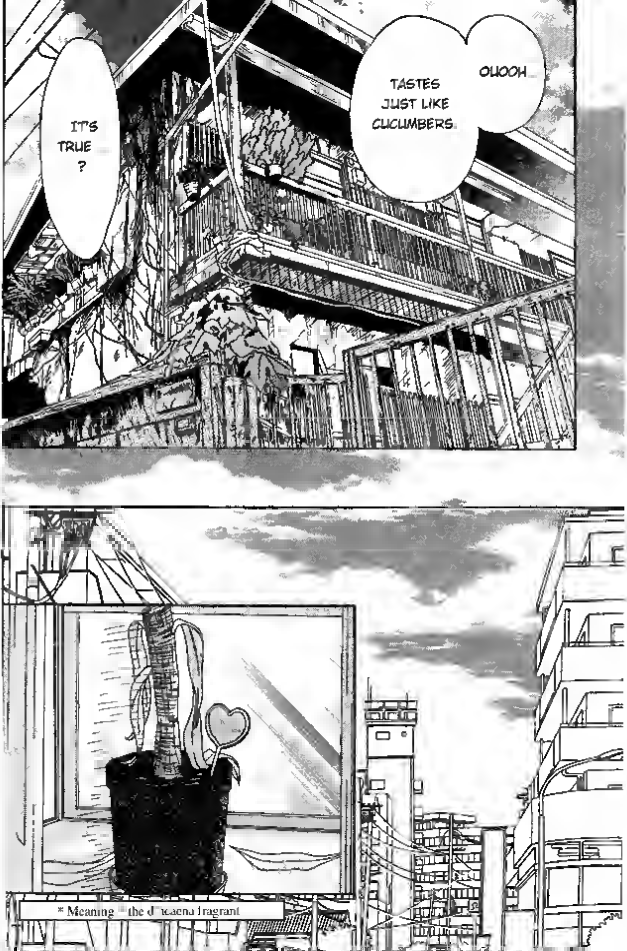
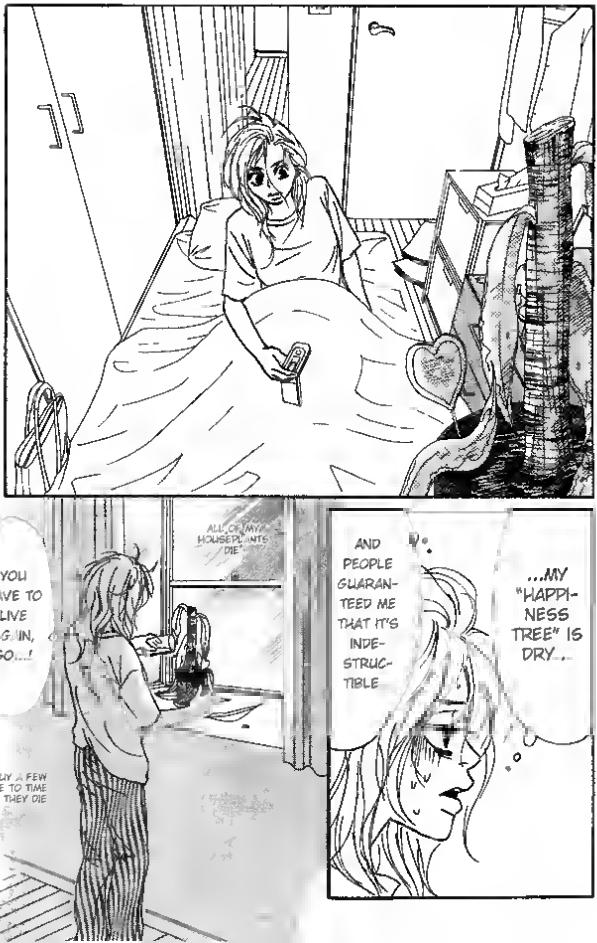
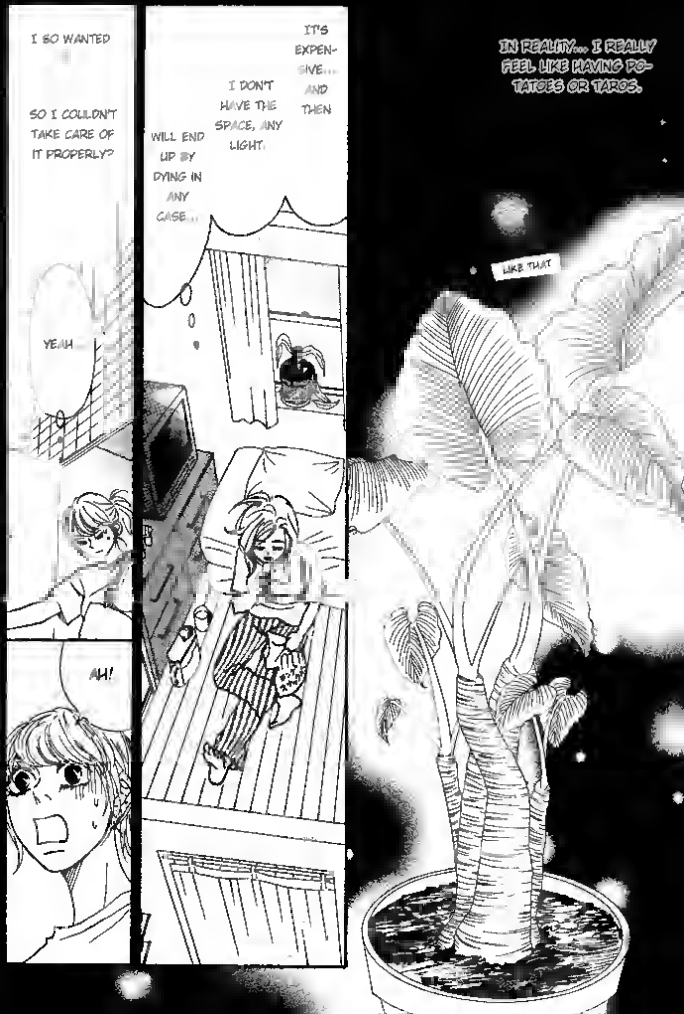


SHLITCH
CRUNCH
AH!
HE'S EATING THE FLOWE R!


IT'S TRUE ?
TASTES JUST LIKE CUCUMBERS.
OUOOH..
* Meaning "the dracaena fragrant


...MY "HAPPINESS TREE" IS DRY...
AND PEOPLE GUARANTEED ME THAT IT'S INDESTRUCTIBLE
ALL OF MY HOUSEPLANTS DIE
I BUY A FEW TIME TO TIME AND THEY DIE
YOU HAVE TO LIVE AGAIN, GO...!


I SO WANTED
SO I COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF IT PROPERLY?
YEAH...
AH!
WILL END UP BY DYING IN ANY CASE...
I DON'T HAVE THE SPACE, ANY LIGHT.
IT'S EXPENSIVE... AND THEN
IN REALITY... I REALLY FEEL LIKE HAVING POTATOES OR TAROS.
LIKE THAT

COSPLAY! COSPLAY!
Not the moment to think about my powerlines...
SHIT!
I HAD TO SEE HIM AFTER WORK!
MY GUY IT'S MASAKI HE PREFERS ME WHEN I'M DRESSED RATHER LIKE A NORMAL GIRL
YOU'RE GREAT IN IT, SHINO
YOU BROUGHT A NEW DRESS?
YOU GOT THE NEW JOB YOU WANTED OR WHAT?
TO PUT ON THIS LOW NECK-LINE...
LUCKY!
PASSED THE TEST!
THANKS?

I GUESSED RIGHT, DIDN'T I?
... ...
IT'S NOT THAT
ON THE CONTRARY. PEOPLE ALWAYS LEAVE ME BEHIND, AS I AM NOW
HAHA!
STUBBORN, THIS GUY MITSU. WELL REALLY...
AND YET IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 6 MONTHS SINCE YOU BROKE UP
BUT WELL
AFTER ALL...
IT IS YOUR FAULT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PLAYED WITH BOTH OF US, GOING OUT WITH HIM AND ME, AND AT THE SAME TIME.

I KNOW YOU AS SOON AS YOU'VE FOUND A NEW ONE, YOU'LL WANT TO TRY AND PICK SOMEBODY UP.
KEEP YOUR JOB.
YEAH. NO QUESTION WHETHER I'LL LET YOU WORK.
AS SOON AS WE GET MARRIED, YOU'LL LEAVE THE COMPANY.
YOU, YOU ALWAYS PUT DOWN MY CLOTHES, MY VOCABULARY...
HEY HOLD ON A MINUTE, MASAKI! WILL YOU LOOK AT ME?!
YEAH... BUT WE'RE SO DIFFERENT...
BUT THE FRANKNESS, IT'S THE SAME, RIGHT?
I FOUND A GOOD JOB. I'LL SAVE UP SOME MONEY AND THEN NEXT YEAR...
MASAKI, I HAD MET HIM AT THE RECORD DEALER WHERE HE WORKS. HE APPROACHED ME STRAIGHT AWAY... IN THE END, I END UP BY GIVING UP. AT THE 3RD DATE, HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM.

AND BEGAN GOING OUT WITH HIM...

I LET MYSELF BE LED BY HIM...

STUBBORN AND YET SO PASSIVE...

WITHOUT [illegible] UP WITH THE OTHER...

HA HA
EXIT
GO EAT OUTSIDE, IT'S A PAIN IN THE NECK HERE.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS, FATTY! GET A MOVE OFF HERE.
Mitsu, master! a real little brat!
BASTARD!
AH!
MAN LUNCH SNACK
BUT WHAT DID I DO TO BE DONE BY THESE ENTIRE BAS-TARDS!
NH! I CAN'T WAIT TO SPLIT FROM HERE!
ALWAYS SHOWING OFF! AND SPREADING ALL THIS GOSSIP!!!
AND ME, THEN?
WHAT DO I HEAR! YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH MASAKI!?

THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S A GOOD TALKER, A GOOD LIAR, AND HE KNOWS HOW TO PLAY WITH YOUR WEAKNESS

AND YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL PERHAPS? THE FUN OF IT WAS FOR WHICH ONE OF US?
THEN LIKE THAT, THE OTHER NIGHT... IT WAS FOR THE FUN, WASN'T IT!?
WHAT A BITCH...!
...HUH?
BUT WE'RE NOT GOING OUT TOGETHER.
.....
Get out of here it's heavy
A LIKELY STORY!
I BROKE UP WITH HER FOR YOU
IF YOU STOP GOING OUT WITH ME, THE OTHER WILL HEAR BEAUTIFUL THINGS ABOUT YOU
I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO GIVES UP LIKE THAT...
OK, WE'LL DO IT LIKE THAT CONTINUE GOING OUT WITH BOTH OF US, IT'S OK WITH ME

AS A RESULT, I TOLD MYSELF "MY GIRL, TELL YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE DESIRED AND MAKE THE MOST OF IT."

IT'S TRUE NEITHER OF THEM IS REALLY MAD ABOUT ME

ON THE OTHER SIDE MASAKI, WHO DOESN'T REALLY SEEMS SMITTEN.

ON ONE SIDE MITSU, EXCITED TO KNOW I'M BEING TORN BETWEEN TWO GUYS

BESIDES, I'M NOT MADE FOR TWO GUYS AT THE SAME TIME
...ALL I WON WITH THAT, IS TO BE TIRED, WELL...
SHINO?
I'M AT THE HOTEL, THE ONE WE WENT TO LAST TIME. GO THERE.
...
HELLO?
CALL
TULULU
TULULU
TULULU
LIKE THAT. BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE ENOUGH OF IT, YOU'LL ALSO BREAK UP WITH ME!
YOU'RE DISGUSTING!

I COULD REGISTER A COMPLAINT
I CALL THAT A SWINDLE MYSELF!
WE'D GET MARRIED
HOWEVER, YOU HAD PROMISED
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I STILL LIKE YOU.
I ...NO IMPOSSIBLE

I NEED TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

I DID SOMETHING DISGUSTING.

IT'S MY FAULT. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS.

"REGISTER A COMPLAINT" AS IF I HAD EXPECTED A SILLY THING LIKE THAT

IT'S TRUE! HE'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE... TO FEEL AS MUCH FOR ME.
AND ABOUT TIME TOO.
...EXCUSE ME.
I CAME AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
BUT YOU TOOK THE TIME TO PUT ON MAKE UP!
.....
IT'S NECESSARY IF NOT HE GETS ANGRY. SUPPOSEDLY, I LET MYSELF GO
I NEVER STOP REPEATING IT TO YOU.
YOU NEED TO MAKE MORE EFFORT!
IF YOU WANT TO STILL BE WITH ME SHOW ME YOU MAKE EFFORTS!
BUT THAT'S WHAT I DO
HEY, WELL... IT'S NOT OBVIOUS!
...WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN?
ASK YOURSELF!
BUT I DON'T KNOW

I NEVER STOP REPEATING MYSELF I LIKE THE OBEDIENT GIRLS...
THEN, YOU HAD BETTER EXPLAIN TO ME...
BLAM
BANG

BUT HE'S STILL NEVER BEATEN ME

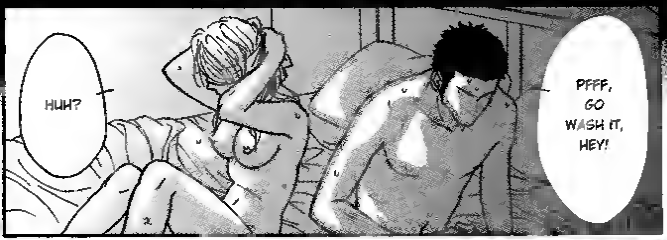
HE MADE ME SUFFER HIS CHEAP SADOMASOCHISM

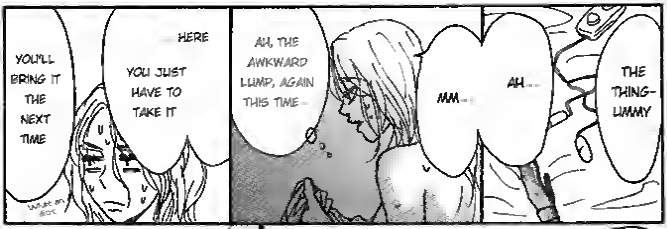
UP TO NOW, IT WAS INSULTS

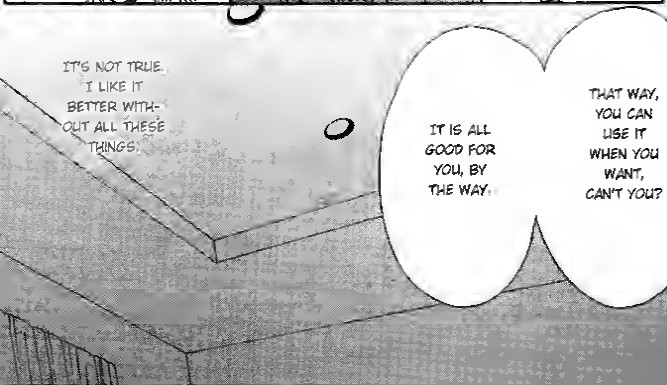
IF HE WANTS...

HAHA, BUT HE CAN DO IT...

DID HE BECOME VIOLENT?




YOU'LL BRING IT THE NEXT TIME
HERE YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT
WASH IT, BOY.
AH, THE AWKWARD LUMP, AGAIN THIS TIME...
MM...
AH...
THE THING- UMMY


IT'S NOT TRUE. I LIKE IT BETTER WITHOUT ALL THESE THINGS.
IT IS ALL GOOD FOR YOU, BY THE WAY.
THAT WAY, YOU CAN USE IT WHEN YOU WANT, CAN'T YOU?

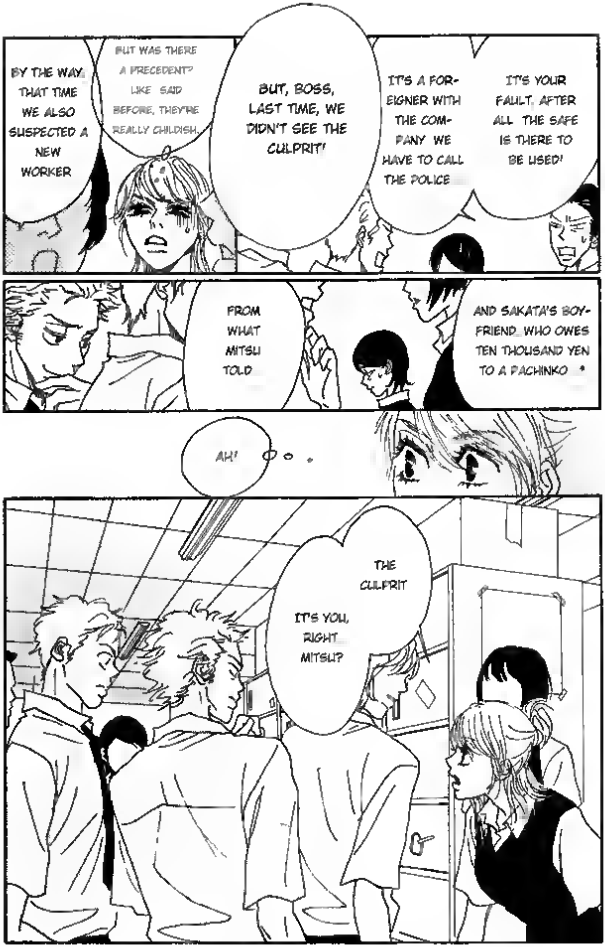
SHINO...
LIKE IT OR NOT HE DOESN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT NOW
WITH ALL OF IT
AND HIM ALSO I'M SURE, HE HAS HAD ENOUGH...
SORRY...
TO HAVE STRUCK YOU...
SORRY.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH
I WANT TO STOP THIS...
MM, MM...

PSCHUIT
BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO COME FROM ME
LIMEMY..!
CD
FUJISHIRO RECORDS
THE WAL-LETS IN THE CLOAK-ROOM, IT SEEMS SHADY!
LIKE ALL THE MONEY HAD DISAP-PEARED!
!

A CHANCE
I ONLY HAD 350 YEN (=$3)
AND SAY THAT I COULD HAVE THE THINGUMMIES IN IT!
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STAYING AT THE OFFICE
IT'S THE NEW WOMAN SAKATA, I THINK

DON'T TALK OF IT! SHIT...
AND THE PAY ONLY COMES IN A WEEK!
IT CAN ONLY BE SOMEONE WHO WORKS HERE
SAKATA, YOU SAW WHO CAME INTO THE OFFICE... DIDN'T YOU!?

I... I STAYED IN FRONT OF MY COM-PUTER...
I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYBODY...
COME OFF IT! IT MAKES A NOISE, A DOOR THAT OPENS ...AND IF IT'S BY THE ELEVATOR, HE INEVITABLY PASSED NEAR YOU!
...I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'LL STOP PLAY-ING THE DETECTIVES!


BY THE WAY, THAT TIME WE ALSO SUSPECTED A NEW WORKER
BUT WAS THERE A PRECEDENT? LIKE SAID BEFORE, THEY'RE REALLY CHILDISH.
BUT, BOSS, LAST TIME, WE DIDN'T SEE THE CULPRIT!
IT'S A FOREIGNER WITH THE COMPANY WE HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE
IT'S YOUR FAULT. AFTER ALL THE SAFE IS THERE TO BE USED!
FROM WHAT MITSU TOLD
AND SAKATA'S BOYFRIEND, WHO OWES TEN THOUSAND YEN TO A PACHINKO *
AH! ΦO.
THE CULPRIT
IT'S YOU, RIGHT MITSU?

*JAPANESE GAME IN WHICH WE PLAY WITH LITTLE STEEL BALLS AND A GAME SURFACE FULL OF NAILS

COME OFF IT! I WAS DOWN-STAIRS THE WHOLE TIME!
YOUR DEPARTMENT IS ALMOST DESERTED THE MORNING YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN YOU WANT WITHOUT US KNOWING IT
STOP YOUR CRAP, YOU SMALL-SCALE MODEL!
YOU THINK WE'LL BELIEVE THESE CHILDISH THINGS!
IT'S PRE-CISELY LIKE YOU TO TELL SUCH STORIES!
IN FACT YOU LIKE IT. RIGHT MAKING BLACK SHEEP OF EVERYBODY AROUND YOU CONFESS!
I BET SAKATA PUSHED BACK YOUR ADVANCES!
HE'S SO CLINGING AND HE CAN SAY THE WORST LIES!
I...!
I PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES TELLING HIM I'VE A BOYFRIEND
BUT HE WAS SO CLING Y
WE DON'T BE-LIEVE YOU!
TO ME HE SAID HE BROKE WITH HIS GIRL-FRIEND FOR ME, THEN I..
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANY TO BREAK UP; AS A RESULT HE BECAME COLD- I KNOW WHY NOW!
BITCH! I NEVER GAVE A DAMN ABOUT YOU AND YOUR REINFORCED NIPPLES!
HUH?!
HEY MITSU! HOWEVER DID YOU KNOW SHE INTER-ESTED ME SHIT!
AND WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME? "SHE MADE THE FIRST MOVE. THE REST WAS A CINCH"!
BUT IT'S TRUE! DON'T SAY ANY-THING, SAKATA!

BOSS!
STOP! STOP!
LIAR!
SO, EVERYBODY LISTEN: I SAW HIM LEAVE THE OFFICE!
AND I SAID THAT OUT OF PITY FOR YOU!
OH'...
SLA SLA SLA SLA
OHOOOOH
EXCUSE ME, BUT I HANDED IN MY RESIGNATION!
IF I STAY HERE
I'LL BE RIDICULED AGAIN, THAT'LL NEVER STOP.
HELLO MASAKI?
ME TOO I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL
♪♫

NORMALLY YOU'D KNOW WELL YOU HAD TO CALL ME EVERY EVENING...
HUH?
YES
.....
EUH...
IT'S NOT NECESSARY NOW
WHAT?
BY ANY CHANCE DID YOU HEAR THAT I QUIT MY JOB?
WHAT!?
Shit! I betrayed myself!
NO I WANT TO SAY...
EUH...
AH...
YES, WE HAD A THEFT!
FORGET ALL THAT

YES, WE HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT EVERY-THING.
I CALLED YOU TO SEE YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU HEAR "IT'S FINISHED".
IT'S FOR GOOD.
GOOD-BYE.
NOT SO QUICKLY!
.....
HUH.....?
THE LAST TIME WHEN HE SAID HE LEFT ME, I FELT RELIEVED AND @ IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
GO THERE, THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND MY NECK WHILE SAYING I
And silently cried the morning
BUT THIS TIME, IT'S "FOR GOOD"...
HUH? RUN TO HIS HOUSE??
.....
EXCUSE ME, I QUIT MY...
AH...
HELLO! ?
I'll still call him.

YEAH
GO ON, WE'LL GET MARRIED.
I WANT TO MOVE OUT BY THE WAY
OK !?
PEOPLE SAY ..
WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO HAVE A CHANGE OF LIFE
AND "AS LONG AS WE LIKE EACH OTHER", ISN'T IT

...IT'S NOT TRUE.
EXCUSE ME
ME TOO...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
...OKAY...
BYE.
TAKE CARE...

FORGIVE ME...
...MIL-DEWED
I SPRINKLED TOO MUCH, THIS TIME
THAT'S ENOUGH, I'LL STOP BUYING PLANTS.
...WELL.
I'VE THE CUDGEL...

...I'M NOT REALLY A LADY-KILLER BUT...
THE GIRLS I KNEW, IT ALWAYS CAME FROM HER.
LOOK.
TAN TAN
HUH? ?
BUT WHAT!?
...SHOULD WE TREAT OURSELVES TO A HOTEL?
WE'RE 24 AND WE ONLY WALK HAND-IN-HAND...
EVEN THE ONES I LIKED, I NEVER COULD DO THE FIRST MOVE, NEVER
A FEW NICE WORDS WERE ENOUGH TO TAKE ME
SAME FOR ME
FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BELIEVING IN YOU
I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD LIKE SOMEONE AS MUCH AS THAT
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE CHOSE ME
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF WELL, EITHER, BUT...
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HIM IF YOU MEET SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

COME OFF IT!
THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME
EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD GET ON MY NERVES IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU!
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC
MOM
YES
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SHINO?
CAN WE GET RID OF THE THINGS YOU LEFT HERE?
HUH ? uu
WE'RE CLUT-TERED! SINCE THAT TIME IT WAS A LIE!

MOM...!
.....
WHEN?!
WAIT! I'LL COME TAKE THEM...
...IT'S THAT...
AH...
HUH!?
AND IF YOU GO PAY A VISIT TO YOUR UNCLE HAT'S?
I WANT TO GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE...
BUT I DON'T HAVE MONEY!
I WANT TO MOVE OUT...
OH, NOTHING..
BOUAAH
WHAT!? BUT WHAT DO YOU HAVE? WHAT HAPPENED?
I...I'LL COME BACK!
IN ANY CASE, I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED!

AND I'LL FEEL AT EASE WITH HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU
YES, DO THIS
IF YOU GO TO YOUR UNCLE'S HOUSE I'LL PAY YOUR GUARANTEE
SO, I'LL CALL HIM.
CLAS
AND HERE, YOU KNOW WITH YOUR BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY
THREE FAMILIES OF TENANTS LEFT ALL AT ONCE. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WE'RE TOO CRAMPED TO KEEP YOU.
AND TOSHIKO WHO'S AWAITING HER SECOND CHILD
AT THAT TIME, IT ALREADY WAS QUITE DINGY...
UNCLE'S HOUSE...
I HAVEN'T GONE SINCE I WAS LITTLE
THERE WAS A FIELD OF TARDS
BUT I REMEMBER IN FRONT OF...
I PLAYED WITH THE DROPS THAT FELL FROM THE LEAVES
YES!

...AH...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
WHAT IT WAS ALREADY, POTATOES, TAROS?
I WON'T HAVE TO BUY THEM EVER AGAIN.
IT SEEMS THAT ALL THAT I WISHED FOR MORE OR LESS WILL COME TRUE.
I'LL BREAK UP WITH THE OTHER.
I QUIT MY JOB, I'LL MOVE OUT.
THAN TO LOVE NORMALLY...
AT LEAST IT IS EASIER...
WOULDN'T I FEEL SAD?
AT LEAST...

Shino

Credits

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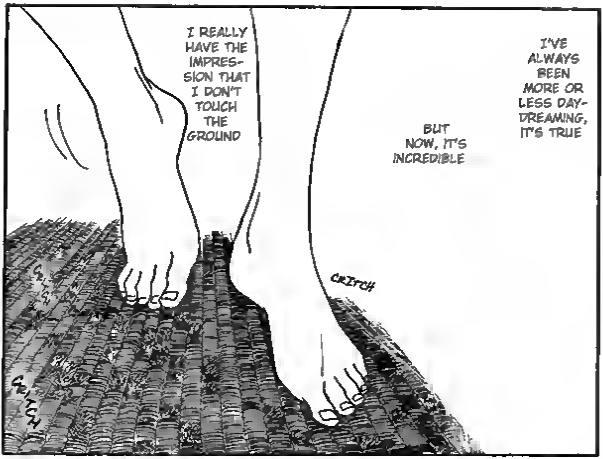
THROW
GARBAGE BAG
FOR LITTER
THROW
HOW DO OTHER PEOPLE...
GET RID OF THEIR STRANGE GADGETS?

2


I REALLY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I DON'T TOUCH THE GROUND
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OR LESS DAYDREAMING, IT'S TRUE
BUT NOW, IT'S INCREDIBLE
CRITCH
CRITCH
CRITCH

YOUR CLOTHES, SHOULD I PUT THEM AWAY HOWEVER I WANT?
HUH...
YES
HA...

SHINO!

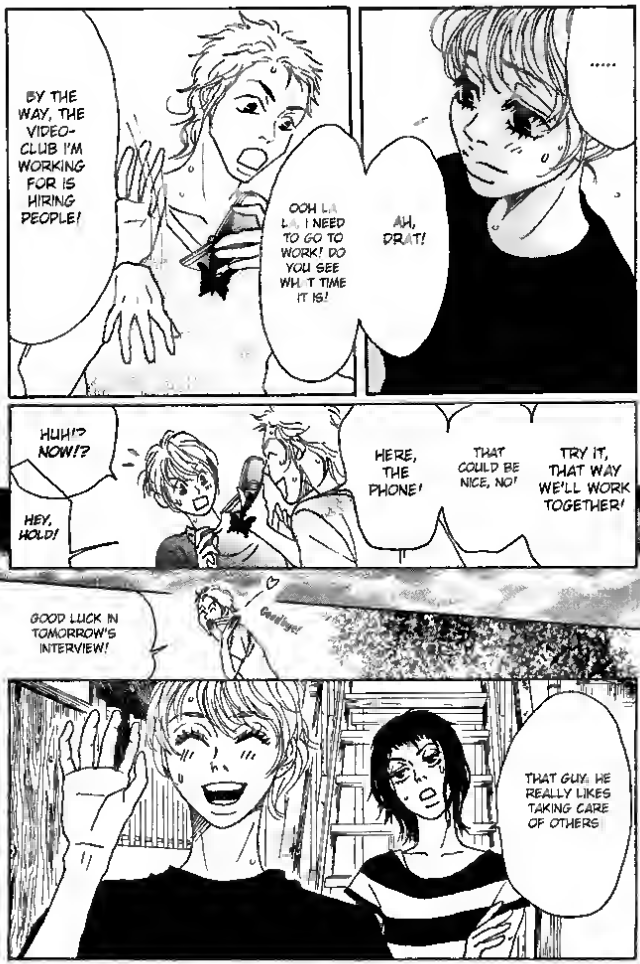
TAKE A LOOK AT THESE TATAMIS... IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME...
HUH?
LEAVE THAT, WE DID THE MOST IMPORTANT PART...
HEY, STAND UP! IT'S YOU WHO MOVED!
BATHROOM AND TOILET ARE SEPARATED, UNCLE MADE ME HAVE IT CHEAPER.
A 32 YEAR-OLD HOUSE, THAT WORRIED ME A LITTLE, BUT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE FIXED IT UP
5* tatamis three* and the kitchen
THERE'S SPACE, WE CAN LEAVE SOME MESS!
Dance what I had before!
Ah ? But the walls fall in little pieces

*JAPANESE PEOPLE MEASURE THE SPACE/VOLUME OF A ROOM IN TATAMIS, SO IT'S A UNIT OF MEASURE

IT'S REALLY SUNNY THERE'S A GARDEN
OPEN
EXCEPT THAT...
THE TAROS BECAME CARS...
WOO! ALL THESE BAD GRASS-ES!
HEY, GIRLS!
COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS TOILET!

LOVELY TOILET FOR QUEERS!
YOU LIKE IT!?
HEY, WHAT A FITTING!
WELL, DRAT...
NO!! NO!
A BIT OF DEODORANT?
BIT OF GRAVEL... AND TO WASH?
YOU'RE REALLY NICE... BOTH OF YOU...
AND YOU TOO, NANAKO.
YOU'VE ALREADY HELPED ME BRINGING MY THINGS.
THANKS, TEN-CHAN...
toilet employee
.....
HE'S A LANDSCAPE GARDENER
I'LL BRING YOU SOME THAT I HAVE AT MY HOUSE
YOU THROW IT AND YOU GET NEW ONES

"HE BROKE UP WITH ME...",
"I DON'T HAVE A JOB ANYMORE...",
"I NEED TO MOVE...",
"HELP ME!..."
WITH ALL THAT...
WE REALLY HAD TO WITH THE VOICE OF A DYING WOMAN YOU HAD ON THE PHONE
DF = dying woman? Hum, excuse me
WHAT?
SHOULDN'T WE?
WELL, WE SHOULD SAY
FRANKLY, HE WAS REALLY STUPID! YOU ONLY HAD AN AFFAIR ONCE...
WITH ME, IT'S NOTHING, BUT HE WAS JEALOUS WHEN YOU WENT OUT WITH YOUR GIRL FRIENDS, RIGHT?
WHOM I NEVER MET, BY THE WAY...
I'LL TELL YOU YOU WERE RIGHT TO BREAK UP WITH THE OTHER "PAIN IN THE NECK"...
BUT, I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU IN TOP FORM.


.....
AH, DRAT!
OOH L.. L.. I NEED TO GO TO WORK! DO YOU SEE WH.. T TIME IT IS!
BY THE WAY, THE VIDEO-CLUB I'M WORKING FOR IS HIRING PEOPLE!
THAT COULD BE NICE, NO?
TRY IT, THAT WAY WE'LL WORK TOGETHER!
HERE, THE PHONE!
HUH!? NOW!?
HEY, HOLD!
GOOD LUCK IN TOMORROW'S INTERVIEW!
Goodbye!
THAT GUY. HE REALLY LIKES TAKING CARE OF OTHERS

PFFOUH, IT'S REALLY HOT TODAY...
WHAT HUMIDITY! I'D RATHER SAY IT STICKS TO YOUR SKIN
AND WITH THAT, NOT A BIT OF WIND.
YES YOU'RE RIGHT
I SHOULD AT LEAST BUY AN ELECTRIC FAN...
...LIKE THAT...
I'LL LIVE HERE...
IT'S LIKE, IT'S ONLY NOW YOU REALIZE THAT...
WELL, IT'S TRUE I FOUND IT HARD TO REALIZE.

TRY TO NOT GO BACK TO YOUR OLD ROOM WITHOUT NOTICING IT!
YES. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'D MAKE A MISTAKE AND GO BACK THERE
.....
THAT I'D MAKE A MISTAKE.....
AND GIVE A CALL TO MASAKI. YES...
AND WHAT WOULD I DO, THEN?
SHINO.....?
YOU STILL DON'T REALIZE THAT YOU'RE NOT TOGETHER ANYMORE, DO YOU?
SO, BECAUSE OF THAT, SOMETIMES I FIND MYSELF SPEAKING WITH HIM, IN MY MIND.....
Ha Ha Ha
!

HEY GIRL, YOU'RE TOO DARK!
YOU HAVE TO ENJOY YOUR LIFE MORE!
Dark? Enjoy life???
YOU'RE STUPID! IT'S NOT WITH YOURSELF YOU SHOULD SPEAK, BUT WITH ME!
OUCH!
Sarack
AND THERE'S YOUR RESUME TO WRITE.
GO OUT! BUY SOME BEER!
OK, THEN I'LL STAY HERE TO-NIGHT!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
AND ABOVE ALL, NEVER GO BACK TO HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM IN MY LIFE ANYMORE...
FEELINGS OF RELIEF SINCE BEING SEPARATED FROM MASAKI

I DIDN'T THINK I'D FEEL SO LONELY
HOW CAN THAT BE EXPLAINED?
WHILE TAKING A LOOK AT A FRIEND'S CD...
HE TOLD ME, "I'D LIKE IT IF YOU WERE THE KIND OF GIRL WHO LISTENED TO SPITZ..."
AND I BOUGHT IT!
Give it to me!
IT'S STILL WRAPPED IN CELLOPHANE!
I HATED MASUKI AND HIS BIG MOUTH...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I LIKED THAT.
AND WHEN I HEARD TEN-CHAN CRITICIZING HIM...
I WAS GRATEFUL TO HIM.
AND ALSO THAT MADE ME ANGRY.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO MYSELF
YOU TWO...

THE FACT IS, YOU FOUGHT WITH HIM ALL THE TIME
BUT EVERYBODY HAS A SOULMATE SOMEWHERE ON EARTH
...I DID WHAT I COULD
BUT STAYING WRAPPED IN CELLO-PHANE
HA HA HA
BUT, YOU KNOW...
THE SHINO, WHO WENT OUT WITH MASAKI...
SHE WORE MAKE UP AND SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL...
COME ON, COME ON...
THE DESIRE TO SEE MY EFFORTS RECOGNIZED? THE PLAIN TO NOTICE THAT EVERYTHING WAS VAIN?
"I DON'T KNOW.
EVERYTHING IS FINISHED NOW.

AM 2:15 18
THANKS NANAKO...
DEAR NANAKO
THANKS.
I'M SORRY.
BUT WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT WE ARE
click

THE ONLY THING FOR SURE...
IS THAT IT'S NOT BY TAKING IT OUT ON A FRIEND...
THAT I'LL GET RID OF...
IT SEEMS THE GRASS...
GREW UP AG..IN SINCE THIS MORN-ING...
THIS LONELINESS...
THAT STICKS TO ME

THIS LONELINESS...
THAT GNAWS AWAY MY SENSATIONS
AHH...
IF I COULD FEEL FREE, CLEAN, LIGHT...
TOMORROW AFTER THE INTERVIEW, I'LL GO SEE THE ELECTRICIAN...
NOT A BIT OF A SLIGHT BREEZE
YOU SHOULD FIND YOURSELF A GUY RATHER THAN AN ELECTRIC FAN. DON'T YOU THINK?

I KNOW IT WELL. THE FIRST GUY WOULD BE OK, WOULDN'T HE?
COME OFF IT! I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR THAT
A GUY WILL MAKE YOU FEEL RELIEF
DON'T HESITATE IF YOU FEEL ALONE
MAYBE
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT I DON'T GIVE A DAMN
DISAPPEAR. I... I HAVE A NEW LIFE THAT IS BEGINNING.
AND ALL THIS GRASS THAT GREW UP HERE...
LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET A WIMP LIKE MITSU TAKE YOU.

I NEED TO PULL IT OUT
YOU'RE SAYING IT YOURSELF
Pull
YOUR FRIEND NO MATTER HOW SHE PLEADS THE DIFFERENCE OF TEMPERAMENT
YOU'D RATHER PREFER SENDING EVERYTHING FLYING TO GET DRUNK AND CRY LIKE THE UNFORTUNATE WOMAN YOU ARE
MORE THAN A NEW LIFE
IN REALITY,
Pull
Pull
OH, YOU AND YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING!
YOU'D PREFER BEING TORMENTED BY ME, LIKE I'M DOING AT THE MOMENT, NO?

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT ALSO ATTRACTED ME.
THAT DISGUSTED ME, I HATED THAT!

Open

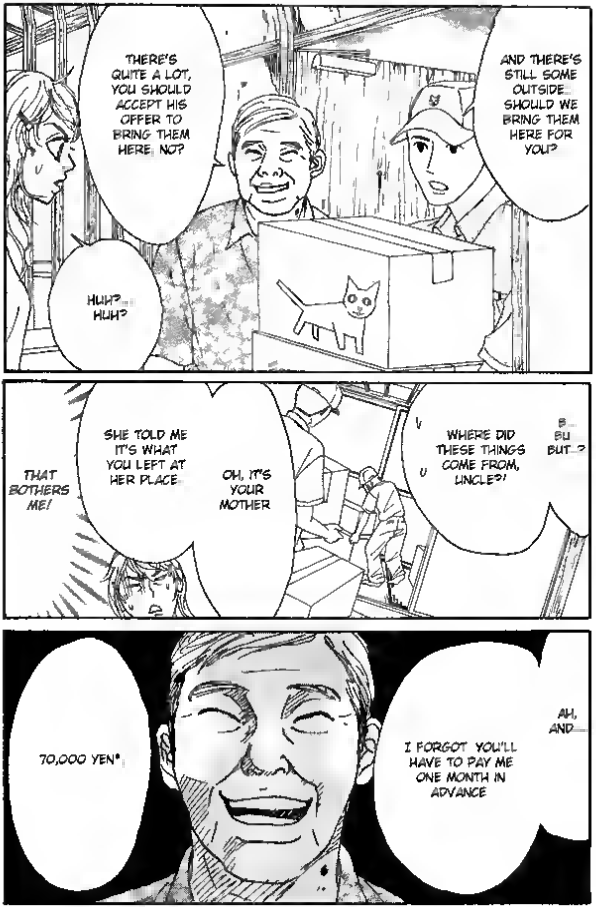
.....
.....
AH!
I... I JUST MOVED IN TODAY!
I... I'M NOT A SHADY WOMAN!
OH
REALLY?
NO

WHAT A DRAG!
ALL THIS GRASS TO PULL OUT...
AT NIGHT-TIME...

AT LAST,
SOME WIND...

SO
GOOD LUCK
CLOSE
.....
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO WORRY
TO THE POINT OF BEING SICK THIS GUY
YOU JUST HAVE TO SEE HIM LAUGH LIKE THAT
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

ONE MOMENT
AND I FEEL ALL THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND ME HAS BEEN PURIFIED.
...A SMILING FACE,
YES.
IT'S GREAT.
YOUR THINGS ARE HEEEERE...
SHINOOO!

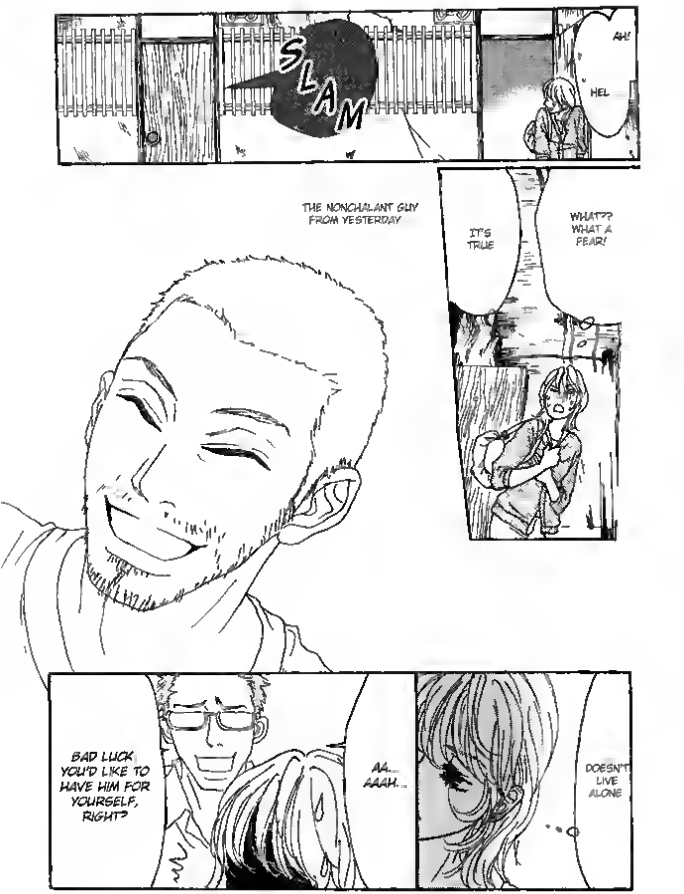

THERE'S QUITE A LOT, YOU SHOULD ACCEPT HIS OFFER TO BRING THEM HERE, NO?
AND THERE'S STILL SOME OUTSIDE... SHOULD WE BRING THEM HERE FOR YOU?
HUH?... HUH?
SHE TOLD ME IT'S WHAT YOU LEFT AT HER PLACE...
OH, IT'S YOUR MOTHER
THAT BOTHERS ME!
B-BU-BUT...?
WHERE DID THESE THINGS COME FROM, UNCLE?!
AH, AND—
I FORGOT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE
70,000 YEN*

*ABOUT $600

BUT IN FACT, I GAIN NOTHING...
EACH MONTH YOU PAY ME YOUR RENT AT THE HIGHER PRICE...
NOTHING THIS MONTH, I DON'T ASK YOUR GUARANTEE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
OH! DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TELL YOU?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME
WHAT? IS THAT...
THE "CHEAP PRICE"...?
I DREAM...
HALF OF THE SPACE IS TAKEN...
What is all of that?
AH... I'M TO GO TO AN INTERVIEW FOR A JOB THAT PAYS 850 YEN* PER HOUR...
PFOJ!!!
YOU'RE ALONE, YOUR RENT COSTS YOU 70,000 YEN AND THAT'S ALL YOU'LL EARN!?

*$7.30

DON'T WORRY! I'LL WORK EVERY DAY WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
IT'S STUPID!
THINK ABOUT THE DISTANCE YOU HAVE FROM HERE TO SHINJUKU SHOULDN'T YOU SEARCH FOR A BETTER JOB?
JUST A SECOND, I HAVE TO WEE
Mh—
Click
WHAT?
!


SLAM
AH!
HEL
THE NONCHALANT GUY FROM YESTERDAY
IT'S TRUE
WHAT?? WHAT A FEAR!
BAD LUCK. YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE HIM FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?
AA... AAAH...
DOESN'T LIVE ALONE

I'M HERE...
I NEVER SAID THAT!!
SHINO?
SORRY, IT'S NOTHING!
GRRRR
.....

THE GIRL FOR THE INTERVIEW IS HERE...
YES...
EXCUSE ME...
BOSS...
TRIP
DVD
CD
TRIP
DVD

OH?
AH, BUT!
.....
THE FUNNY GIRL WHO PULLED UP THE GRASS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT..
THAT'S ALL HE REMEMBERS ABOUT ME ?

Akari & Kyoshiro

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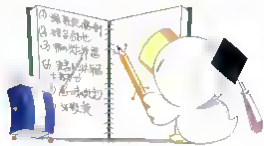

Credits

Piece of Cake 3

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...I'M 163 CM, TO BE EXACT. WILL YOU HIRE ME NOW!
IT'S TRUE! I BET YOU'RE NOT EVEN 150 CM TALL!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE YOUNGER!
WHAT!?
YOU'RE 24?! ALMOST 25?!! YOU DON'T LOOK IT...!

3

"THE CHINESE"
OR SO IT'S SAID.
WORK IS THE SOLUTION TO EVERY-THING...
KYO
GODARD
T.B
"THE MIDDLE CLASS'S DISCREET CHARM."
BUNUEL
BUNUEL...
UMEMIYA...
WHICH COUNTRY...?
OK!
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE YOUR BREAK!

HOEI PUREE
What?
SUGAR,
SALT
SPICES,
Keep the room clean and tidy!
VEGETABLE OIL
AH
Y YES
SO ARE YOU GETTING USED TO HOW THINGS WORK AROUND HERE?
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON
ONE OF THE RANKING STAFF
HMM, SHE'S "KANDA"
THERE ARE SO MANY MOVIES AND I KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT CINEMA

THE ONE I BROKE UP WITH WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE...
NOBODY ELSE...
BECAUSE I'M THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING CAREFULLY.
ER, WELL
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
AH...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN EIGHT DAYS
ONE WEEK
UMEMIYA
SCATTERBRAINED AS I AM...
I'LL TRY "TO NOT" MAKE ANY BIG MISTAKES...
OR TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR SOMEONE ELSE...
I'M AN ADULT AFTER ALL!
EVEN IF I DO LOOK LIKE A KID
BY THE WAY...
N-NO...!
Ha Ha Ha
SHE JUST DUMPED HIM!
WH...?!
DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

WHOOAA, NO WAY!
WHAT?!
I HEARD THAT YOU LIVE NEAR THE BOSS!?
HEY SHINO
WHAT?!
HUH?
AH, IT'S ALREADY THE NIGHT CREW'S SHIFT
AH!
THEN, YOU KNOW HIS GIRL-FRIEND!?
YES ..!
REALLY!?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!?
I'M YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR, UMEMIYA
Ding Dong
HUH?
HUH?
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S SHE LIKE??

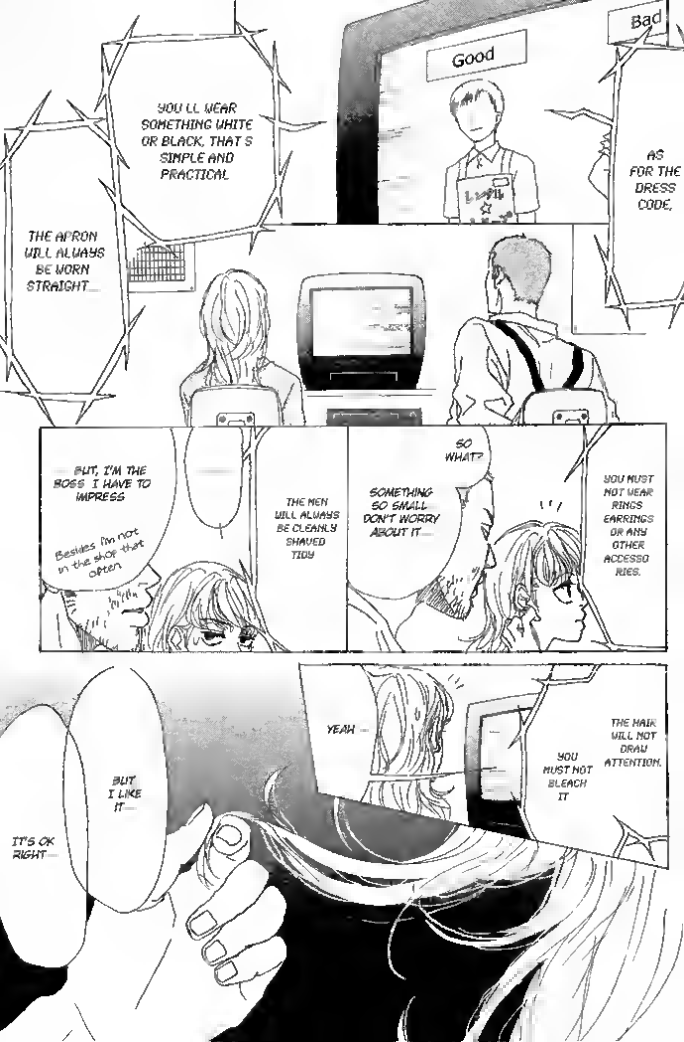
GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER PULL OUT THE GRASS IN YOUR GARDEN?
Thanks all the same
ALL THE SPORES FROM YOUR YARD FLY INTO OURS YOU KNOW!
HE HERE!
A LITTLE PRESENT!
YEAH
Slam
OH OH REALLY?
..... .
TALL SLIM
AND PRETTY
BUT TOO UNSOCIABLE HONESTLY!
DAMN!
IT'S BECAUSE OF HER THAT HE DOESN'T TELL US ABOUT HIS DESCENTS INTO DISREPUTABLE PLACES ANY-MORE RIGHT?
He's gone to see!

WELL!
NIGHT CREW. EVERYONE IS HERE
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO AREN'T READY OR THOSE WHO ARE LATE
DEDUCT 100 YEN FROM YOUR PAYCHECK
TRIP
WELL THEN THOSE WHO ARE ANSWERING FROM THE CLOAKROOM WILL WELCOME THE COSPLAY CUSTOMERS "BIZ".
I'M HERE
MITA--!
YES!
INO
AREN'T THERE ANY GIRLS ON THE NIGHT CREW?
NOT SO FAST. I'M HERE! I'M THE ONLY ONE KOBAYASHI
KO-BAYASHI. THAT'S QUEER
JUST IMAGINE WHO WORKS AT NIGHT
BESIDES
Movie Otaku
Music Otaku
Anime Otaku
BUT WE WERE ADVISED TO AVOID IT
Trip's head office
"MENTAL TRIP" IS ONE OF THE BUSINESSES
RECRUITMENT SECTION
STAFF MANAGEMENT SECTION
NO... WE COULD BE OF COURSE
"There's the door for us now."

YOU AND THE BOSS, YOU'RE REGULAR EMPLOYEES RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY
BUT TO THINK THAT SUGAWARA BECAME MY BOSS...
And I have to work under his command
OK!
ZEEEK...
ZION* !!!
AND AT NIGHT, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE?
HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I WISH THE BOSS WAS SOMEONE ELSE?
What a racket!
AFTER EIGHT DAYS...
MY OPINION OF THE BOSS ONLY GETS WORSE
WRITE IT UP FOR ME
AH, I FORGOT THE SCHEDULE IN MY DEPARTMENT
IT'S THE LAST DAY TO TURN IN THE JOB REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK
AH...
UMEMIYA!
AND ON TOP OF THAT HE HAUNTS ALL THE DISREPUTABLE PLACES!
HE'S A REAL SLACKER...
AMBIGUOUS CHILDISH

*COMES FROM THE ANIME GUNDAM

AH
MY DAY OFF IS WEDNESDAY.
.....
YES...
CURRICULUM VITAE
YOU'RE HIRED!
THE DAY CREW BEGINS AT 2 P.M. IS THAT OK FOR YOU?
THE EMPLOYEES HAVE TO BE CUTE. SO, YOU'RE HIRED.
YES.
GOOD
READ THAT
AND YOU ALSO HAVE TO WATCH THIS BRAIN-WASHING VIDEO
TRIP. Staff


Good
Bad
AS FOR THE DRESS CODE,
YOU'LL WEAR SOMETHING WHITE OR BLACK, THAT'S SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL
THE APRON WILL ALWAYS BE WORN STRAIGHT...
YOU MUST NOT WEAR RINGS EARRINGS OR ANY OTHER ACCESSORIES.
SO WHAT?
SOMETHING SO SMALL DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
THE MEN WILL ALWAYS BE CLEANLY SHAVED TIDY
...BUT, I'M THE BOSS I HAVE TO IMPRESS
Besides I'm not in the shop that often
THE HAIR WILL NOT DRAW ATTENTION.
YOU MUST NOT BLEACH IT
YEAH...
BUT I LIKE IT...
IT'S OK RIGHT...

レンタル
★
TRIP
IT'S SOFT AND LIGHT ...
1000 YEN FOR HOUR AFTER 10 P.M...
YOU WANT ME TO WORK WHAT SHIFT?!
WHAT?
NOTHING
JUST ACT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED
UH ...
YEAH.
IT'S GREAT ...
OH, WHY NOT
FOR THE WOMEN, IT'S NOT RECOM
THE NIGHT SHIFT??
FROM 5 P.M. TO 12.30 A.M. !
BUT I'D LIKE TO HAVE THAT TIME SLOT!

WE'RE NEIGHBORS, AFTER ALL
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE YOU HOME
SO IT'S OK FOR YOU TO WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT WHEN I'M WORKING
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RIGHT?
MAYBE I'M OVER-THINKING THINGS..
Staff wanted
month/day ~ month/day
Shiro Omenya
S M T W Th F S
NOT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
WITH A BOSS LIKE THAT..
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL

IT PAYS WELL AND THERE'RE ONLY GUYS!
It's meeee!
PERFECT, BUT IT'S PERFECT, WORKING ON THE NIGHT CREW!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO ONLY BE EATING BREAD CRUSTS *
HONESTLY...!
I DON'T SEE HIM AS OFTEN AND HE WEARS A BOW TIE
LATELY MASUKI HAS BEEN LESS AND LESS FORWARD
THE NEIGHBORS' GARDEN IS GREAT...
I BET HE DOES NOTHING HIS GIRLFRIEND IS PROBABLY THE ONE WHO TENDS TO THE GARDEN
THE RESULT OF MY EFFORTS

*IN JAPAN, THE CRUST OF THE SANDWICH BREAD ISN'T EATEN. ONLY BREAD WITH THE CRUST REMOVED IS USED FOR A SANDWICH

TOMATOES
CUCUMBERS
AND THAT EGGPLANT?
SUNFLOWERS AND THINGS THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW
IF IT WERE ME
EVERYTHING WOULD ALREADY BE DEAD
Glack
JUST LOOKING AT THEM, MAKES ME DROOL
HUH!?
IT'S INCREDIBLE
AAAH!
B.. BUT..
N– NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! I'M NOT A THIEF!

HEY...
AND YET I HUMBLED MYSELF ENOUGH TO ASK.
OH REALLY!
NO.
I'D JUST LIKE TO HAVE THE ONES THAT HAVE FALLEN OFF!
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE THE OWNER'S NIECE...
AREN'T YOU...
HIS MISTRESS?

HE'S MY UNCLE. MY UNCLE. I TELL YOU!
DON'T GO AROUND SAYING THAT DIRTY SHIT!
He's my family alright!
.....
THAT ISN'T IT?
WH.. WHAT ...??
PUCK
JUST
HERE.
IS THIS HER WAY OF TELLING ME TO "EAT"?
.....
THANKS
IT'S GOOD, THEY'RE FRESH.

AH!
THEN, YOU CAME FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE!
DELICIOUS!
WHOA! IT TASTES EXACTLY LIKE THE TOMATOES I USED TO STEAL FROM THE NEIGHBOR'S FIELD IN THE PAST!!
WHAT A SURPRISE!
IS THAT SO?
THEN, IT'S GOOD
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THE ONES YOU BUY FROM THE SUPERMARKET! WOW, IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS!
Not that I can even say any

HUH
She's home!
DON'T STEAL LIKE...
YOU DID IT HOME, ALRIGHT?
YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK ME!
YES... THANKS.
AND...
I'M NOT ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE TOMATOES...
THE SAME GOES FOR KYOSHIRO...
Yes?

30 YEARS OLD"
WHAT?
WHAT?
"DON'T STEAL LIKE YOU DID AT HOME ALRIGHT?"
DID SHE REALLY SAY THAT?
"YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK ME "
DID SHE REALLY SAY THAT??

BUT, I DON'T WANT HIM...!
WHAT ON EARTH IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
AH!
DON'T BOTHER YOUR-SELF...
TAKE HIM...
CASSAVETES
OUT
CASSAVETES
BERTO-LUCCI
JACQUES TATI
MAKHMAL-BAF
Clac

AND MAYBE
THEY LIVE TOGETHER
I'M JUST A NEIGHBOR...
AND HE JUST HAPPENS TO BE MY BOSS.
THEIR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T GOING WELL.
DID I LOOK LIKE I WANTED TO TAKE HER TOMJTOES AND HER BOYFRIEND?
WHAT DO WE TELL HER ABOUT ME?
SO, MAYBE, SHE WAS JUST A BIT TOUCHY?

WHEW WHAT A SHOCK!
OH BUT ENOUGH OF THAT...
UMEMIYA...
AH! BUT OF COURSE!
SHE WAS JUST A BIT TOUCHED!
I mean, she had the nerve to come out and say that I'm the owner's mistress
ARE YOU FREE AFTER WORK?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT FOR A DRINK?
レンタル
IN SHORT, I JUST WANT TO HAVE A DRINK. THE NIGHT TEAM WILL JOIN US LATER...
AH...
WITH EVERYONE...
I SEE
OKAY, THEN!
WHAT!
WE STILL HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU
IDIOT DON'T ONLY THINK TO YOURSELF... IDIOT!
MY STANDARDS ARE FALLING I'M GOING, MASAKI

I HEARD YOU JUST DUMPED YOUR BOYFRIEND?
ME TOO I JUST BROKE UP WITH SOME-ONE
IS IT THE STYLE HERE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF WHILE TALKING ABOUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS ?
You're on the night crew... right? It's the first time we've spoken to each other
HUH?
AH
KANDA ASKED YOU: "ARE YOU SEEING SOMEONE", RIGHT?
I'M THE ONE, WHO ASKED HER TO ASK YOU THAT
YOU AND ME WE'RE BOTH ALONE
SO, LET'S GO CHAT IN FRONT OF A DRINK.

IT'S MITSU... YES MITSU!
THE KIND OF GUY YOU FIND EVERYWHERE
カラオケ
10F
DON'T MAKE MISTAKES
BE ON YOUR GUARD
WATCH OUT BE CAREFUL...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY JUST CLOSED UP
SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE BEFORE LONG.
Hhhhh
THE BOSS, HE ISN'T COMING?
BUT IT'S NOTHING. LET HIM SEDUCE YOU
IT'S HIS METHOD THIS GUY
THAT WORKS!! YOU RIGHT?

AH, DON'T SAY THAT!
Keep quiet in front of a newcomer, dear!
Incumbent
LIKE ALL THE GUYS HERE!
IT'S STILL BETTER THAN TO HAVE-IT-ON WITH PART-TIME GIRLS...
PROBABLY NOT
YEAH WE HARDLY SEE HIM THESE DAYS...
YOU'RE ALLUDING TO THOSE "FAMOUS DISREPUTABLE PLACES" RIGHT?
HELL YEAH! WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT IT?
Oh, really.
THE BOSS IS LIKE THAT, HUH?
You're nothing to be proud of!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE WORKED AT THE PREVIOUS SHOP!
Go drink!
OH, NO NOT SINCE HE'S BEEN PROMOTED I THINK...
I HEARD YOU'RE HIS TYPE OF GIRL...
ALL THE SAME, LIMEMIYA, SOME ADVICE. KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN...
THE TYPE WITH "BIG EYES"...
charming idiot I bet
WOMEN
....

MAYBE THEY WERE, AT THAT MOMENT...
THEY'RE NOT SMALL THAT'S FOR SURE
AT THAT MOMENT ...
WHEN I THINK...
THAT HE'S ANOTHER MITSU!
AA— AH—
I MUST HAVE BEEN IMAGINING THINGS
THAT LAUGH SO CLEAR SO HEARTY
RIGHT?

HEY
HEY
LISTEN

A TRAP ??
AAAH
UMEMI-YAAA...

YES
HUH...
ARE YOU OK...? THEN, UH...

YOU'RE HEAVY!
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY...?

THAT'S ENOUGH...!
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU'RE HEAVY!
I FEEL... AH, BUT!
HEY?

AH...
HEY...
I FEEL...
I FEEL OK...

HOLD ON A MINUTE!
HEY?
UM... UMEMIYA?
I'M SORRY.
BUT YOU CAN'T KNOW THE TERRIBLE SCATTERBRAIN...
...THAT I AM!
BY MY FIRST IMPRESSION
EVERY TIME, I'M FOOLED
BUT AVOID THE MISTAKES ..
"I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED HER TO ASK YOU THAT!"

"IT'S SOFT AND LIGHT "
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK
BE CAREFUL TO NOT TO BE SEDUCED
"IT'S THE SAME FOR KYOSHIRO "
ALL OF THEM, THEY'RE POINTLESS RESOLUTIONS.
YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG, GIRLIE!
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE SAME IDIOT.
WHAT'S THE USE OF RESISTING ...

BAM
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM!
... ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
MORE THAN ENOUGH, IT SEEPS OUT EVERYWHERE ...

SHIT! I'LL JUST GO TO SLEEP!
YES, I'LL SLEEP RIGHT HERE!
STOP YOUR CRAP! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I FEEL ANYMORE....!
BAM
BAM
Bang
I GIVE UP.
YOU'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
DAMMIT!
BLIT!?

SHINO!?
WHOA, TAKE A LOOK!
It's incredible!
SHE'S DROOLING..!
I HADN'T SLEPT WELL IN TWO WEEKS..
SO, AFTER THE COMBINATION OF ALCOHOL AND REBELLION I SLEPT DEEPLY
... "THE DRIBBLE ON HER LIPS".
THERE'S A FILM WITH THIS TITLE!
IN ANY CASE, SHE PROBABLY HASN'T SEEN IT...
I WOKE UP IN MY BUILDING
BUT
I WAS IN MY BOSS'S ROOM.

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4

AH, HER THINGS WERE LEFT THERE?
AH... BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENED...
WE CARRIED HER, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE KEY, SO SHE'S SLEEPING AT THE BOSS'S.
WHAT!
WE TRIED PINCHING AND SLAPPING HER, SHE HAS NO REACTION
YOU'RE STILL ON YOUR DRINKING BINGE?
OF COURSE
IT'S 6 A.M. HEY DON'T BE LATE TO WORK!
And where are you going to drink?
HEY NOW!
THEN, I'LL RUN OVER AND JOIN YOU

BY THE WAY!
DON'T TOUCH SHINO!
AS IF I COULD!
WHAT, WITH MY GIRLFRIEND COMING HOME SOON
OH REALLY. WHAT A PITY....
WELL THEN, I'M OFF
Slam
.....
I'D REALLY LIKE TO
YEAH
I'D REALLY LIKE TO
BESIDES, SOON SHE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO GO OUT WITH FROM THE SHOP, RIGHT?
WHAT-EVER IT'S HER PROB-LEM
SHE JUST DUMPED HER BOYFRIEND

AH... BY THE WAY
AND I CAN END IT WITH AKARI AT ANY TIME
THIS IS AKARI-CHAN SHE WORKS WITH ME.
WHEN "IT" ALREADY HAPPENED TO ME... IT WAS WITH AKARI.
YEAH
PART-TIME SHE'S A FAKE SECRETARY FOR A MEETINGS AGENCY.
"WORK" YOU SAID? AT YOUR OTHER WORK?
THIS GUY, HE'S MY BROTHER.

WOOOH
PINN
OH GEEZ...! YOU SWALLOWED MY DRINK WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS...!
WANT TO TAKE A TAXI?
.....
SHE SAID SHE LIVED ALONE AROUND THIS AREA...
STRANGE WAY OF BECOMING ACQUAINTANCES ...
EXCUSE ME ...
WHAT?
ME?
YOU LIVE ALONE?
YOU
FORGET IT

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO MY PLACE
I'D RATHER GO TO YOUR PLACE
YEAH...
I ENDED UP TAKING HER HOME, INSTEAD OF MY BROTHER, WHO WAS WORKING.
AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO HAD TRIED TO PICK HER UP IN THE FIRST PLACE!
AND SHE WAS THERE, LISTENING NOT VERY FOCUSED, TOTALLY DRUNK.
I WONDERED WHAT SHE WAS DOING THERE!
SHE WAS GETTING ON MY NERVES!
THANKS
AND I DIDN'T THINK THAT I'D TAKE HER WITH ME
AND THEN, WHEN I UNDERSTOOD THAT HE'D BEEN CHATTING HER UP...
...I SAID TO MYSELF "LET'S GO, I'LL GET BACK HOME ALONE!"

WHAT DO I DO?
AHH
SLEEP?

WHAT?!
YOU'RE EVEN REDDER THAN WHEN WE DRANK.
YOUR HEART IS BEATING FAST.
IT'S TRUE?
AH
HEY...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME.
HAHA ...
THE FIRST TIME. OBVIOUSLY ....
THAT MAKES YOU NERVOUS.

I REMEMBER
I FELT
AN ITCH
I HAVE TO SAY THAT IT'D BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'D HAD ONE
REALLY! AT 24 YEARS OLD?
I THOUGHT SHE HAD MEANT "THE FIRST TIME WITH ME"
NO, NO
IS IT REALLY SO STRANGE?
VIRGIN AT 24
LOOK WHO'S TALKING
NO two girls the same!
WE COULD GIVE YOU
THE BODY AND THE SKIN OF A TEEN-AGER

WELL?
AH, IT'S YOU, KANDA?
YES
HELLO? SUGAWARA?
NOTHING EXCEPT I'M FREE.
YOU TOO RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH
I'M SORRY. BUT I'M WITH MY GIRL...
KANDA I THOUGHT... I FELT SOMETHING IN HER VOICE
SORRY...
BUT YOU'RE REALLY NOT MY TYPE
HEHE...
AH
I SEE.
GOOD BYE
CLICK

"WITH MY GIRL"
WHAT ...!?
AND SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET TOGETHER?!
I DON'T @ELIEVE ANYBODY YOU!! ELSE WOULD HAVE ALREADY SAID GOOD RIDDANCE!
VIRGIN OR NOT AT 24, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM... YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO BE CAREFUL!

I THINK I'M STUCK IN THIS SITUATION FOR THE MOMENT...
WHOA... GOOD THING I DIDN'T FUCK HER !
BELIEVE ME THIS GIRL I'M SURE SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING! WATCH OUT FOR HER DIRTY TRICKS!
AND I BET, SHE'S STAYING AT HER JOB?
BUT THAT JOB ANYBODY WITH SENSE KNOWS YOU CAN'T DO IT, SERIOUSLY! AND I, I QUIT...
AND ALSO, WHEN SHE'S WITH PEOPLE, SHE'S CONTENT JUST LISTENING WITHOUT TALK-ING...
DON'T TRUST HER, I TELL YOU!
Don't say that I didn't warn you
BUT YOU STILL TRIED TO PICK HER UP
NOR-MALLY SHE'D BE REALLY HOT
I WONDER WHAT SHE HAS IN MIND
DON'T TRUST HER...
IT'S TRUE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED!
SIGH

SHE ALWAYS RUNS AWAY SO CALMLY.
I'LL BE BACK IN 3 OR 4 DAYS DON'T WORRY IF ANYTHING COMES UP GO AHEAD AND DEAL WITH IT.
I'M IN A BUSINESS HOTEL
"DON'T WORRY" YEAH RIGHT!
WAIT, AT THE FIRST BEEP...
I'LL DO AS YOU SAY SILLY BITCH
I WON'T STOP YOU FROM DOING SOMEONE ELSE.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT, THEY'RE A REAL PAIN, THESE TRIPS.
GOING OUT?
OUT OF THE QUESTION I WANT MY OWN MONEY BESIDES I'M WELL PAID
I EARN 6 USUAL FOR TWO PEOPLE.
YOU SHOULD STOP IT...
MY JOB, I SEEM TO BE BETTER AT DOING HOUSEWORK..
AUH, FOR YOUR NOVEL?
OH YES! MONEY TO RUN AWAY?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE. IT'S NOT ONLY FOR THE MONEY; I LEARN A LOT OF THINGS, TOO.
... YES.

BUT HOLD ON!
AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I SENSE IT IMMEDIATELY!
WELL, WHAT I HATE MOST ARE PEOPLE WHO MAKE FUN OF ME!
AND BAM, SHE'S AT IT AGAIN!
IT MAKES YOU LAUGH, I BET ...
THAT I HAVE MY OWN DREAM!
THE DAY I SAW HER..
I COULDN'T LEAVE
EVEN AS AN EMPLOYEE, I STILL HAVE A DREAM.
SHE CAN WONDER WHO IS MAKING FUN OF WHOM!
ON THE CONTRARY...
"THE KIND OF FEELING THAT INFLAMES PEOPLE," I TOLD MYSELF.
"WE FELT IT AT FIRST SIGHT."
OH! REALLY
EVEN AN IDIOT LIKE ME CAN DO IT

AKARI...

GREAT SHE'S EXACTLY MY TYPE IT'S CRAZY...

GO
NOT THE KIND TO PLOT SOMETHING IN THE SHADOWS.
SHINO, TOO
SHE'S REALLY CUTE
AKARI WON'T BE BACK FOR A FEW MORE HOURS.
AH...
IT'D BE GOOD, BUT
ENOUGH TIME TO DO WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO.
End of Vol.1 Ch.04

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Proofread By: Sweetpeach and LazyDreamer

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5

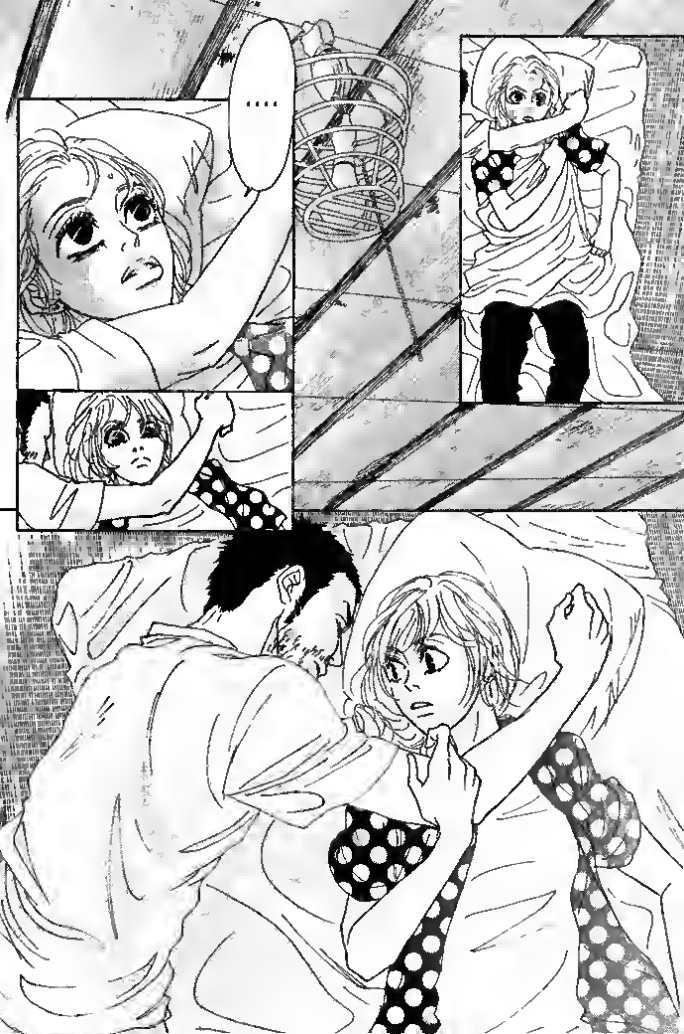
HOP
HOP
HOP
ZEEEK
ZION!
ZEEEK...
ZION!
HOP
HOP
AAAARGH!!
ZEEK ZION!
ZEEK ZION!
HOP
ZEEK ZION!
ZEEK ZION!
ZEEK ZION!
ZEEK ZION!
THE CORNINESS OF IT ALL IS UN-BEARABLE!
STOP! PLEASE STOP...
AH, MITSU!
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D DO THIS, RIGHT?
SORRY!
Hey! I'm not playing with you!
BUT! BUT, WHAT'S WITH THESE FLOW-ERS?!
WE'LL GO BY MOTOR-CYCLE! IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE
The mountains in the middle of the night?
LET'S GO TO THE MOUN-TAIN
AT LAST, I DID IT

*ALLUSION TO THE SERIES KAMEN RIDER

AMAZON!
LIVE A LITTLE! LOOK AT THOSE BIG SHADOWS!
BUT I FEEL BETTER WITH MITSU THAN WITH MASAKI
THE AMAZON MASKS' REALLY IS HE STAINED LIKE THAT?*
IT'S TIRING HAVING TO LAUGH ALL THE TIME.
IT'S A RELIEF TO KNOW IT'S NOT MY FAULT
HOWEVER, CUT FLOWERS WILL DRY OUT
IS A REAL PLEASURE
FOR ME, A PERSON WHO LIKES FLOWERS...
MASAKI!
IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE FLOWERS, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT ABOUT ME?

TURN LIKE THIS...
DANCE LIKE THE LATINOS...
IF YOU'D DO WHAT I WANTED...
A GIRL WHO'LL DO WHAT I WANT, THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD BE.
YOU HAVE REALLY BAD TASTE.
WHAT?! YOU'RE IN LATIN-AMERICA THIS TIME!? COOL!
"TASTE" BUT...
OF COURSE!
AND ALSO, DO YOU LIKE ME?
THEN...
Haha
Haha
ME TOO I'D LIKE SOMEONE WHO WAS LIKE ME
UM...
AH WELL UM...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

AH!
BUT, IT'S THE SAME ...
AND YOU, YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME EVEN IF YOU HATE ME!
AAAAAHH--
FLY!

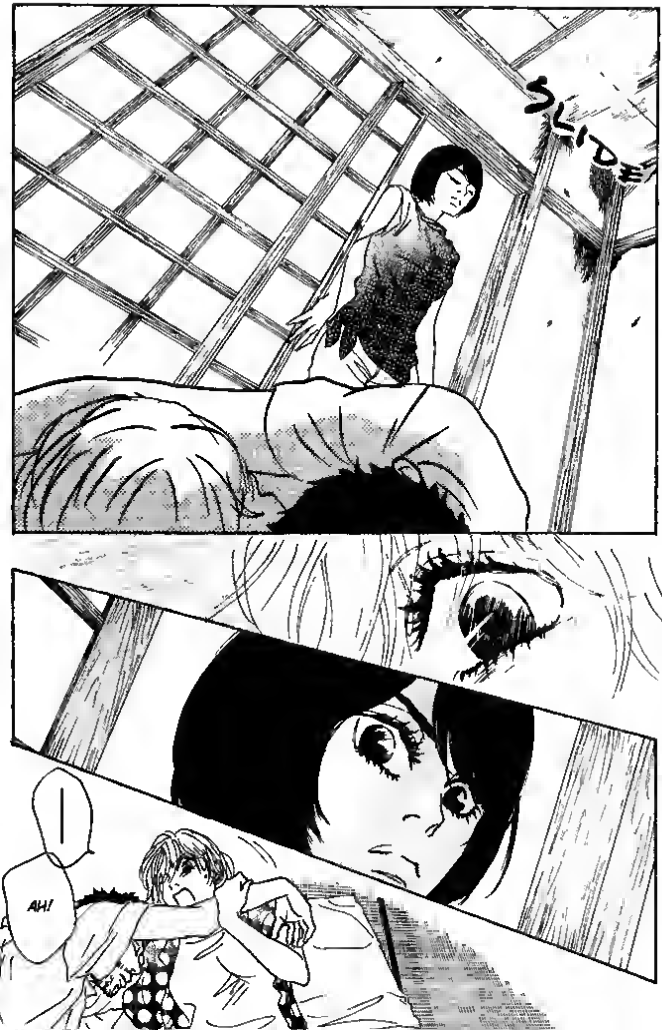


UH
I'M DRESSED
WHAT DID THAT MEAN?
BUT?
AH,
THIS ISN'T MY ROOM AM I IN THE BOSS'S ROOM?
BUT THE ELEVATOR?
THE BOSS WAS THERE??
I FELL ASLEEP...
I WENT OUT WITH THE OTHERS
YEAAAH
MMH
FOLL
BAM
PUSH
WOO, HE'S HEAVY

MY GOD THIS GUY...
HE'S A REALLY DEEP SLEEPER...
OH, IF SHAVED
WOULD HE HAVE THE FACE OF A LITTLE BOY?
Tuu

I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP!
TOUL TOUL
IN THAT CASE

I WISH HE'D WAKE UP
OR THAT HE'D STAY LIKE THIS
TAP
TAP
TAP


SLIDE!
AH!

Bam
Blam
BOSS! WAKE UP!
MMPF!
MMPF!
MH...
UH

OUCH
AAAH
AKARI...!

BANG
HUP
GMACK
MISUNDER...
HEY...
YOU...
NO!
STOP
HEY, THAT'S ENOUGH
It's true!
It's true!
WE GOT SLOSHED AND FELL ASLEEP, THAT'S ALL!
RIGHT?

AKARI!!!! ..!
OH, IT'S HER

I KNEW IT..!
SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, I COULDN'T STAND THAT GIRL!!
I KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU AND HER!
AKARI! .....
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE HER, DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
WELL, YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!

STOP TALKING NONSENSE
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIYOTA THE CLAIRVOYANT!?
BY THE WAY, ABOUT KIYOTA, HE HAS THE GIFT OF SECOND SIGHT, RIGHT?
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THAT!
LET GO OF ME!
FORGET IT.
AKARI
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN

IT FEELS GOOD LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
AKARI!! LET'S GO TO SLEEP
..DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME..!
SLAM
AKARI

You can't bring a girl home when I'm not here!
THIS IS A MATTER OF SELF-ESTEEM!!
YES YES SIR! IT'S NORMAL THOUGH
I'M SHOCKED
SORRY...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THIS ATTACHED TO ME...
BUT YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US
FRANKLY... I'M SURPRISED
SO STOP MENTIONING UNIMPORTANT STUFF...
...ME TOO

I'M AMAZED.
WHAT A SHOCK!
click
click
MY KEY
WHERE IS IT?!

FIRST
I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE
WELL IT DOESN'T MATTER
AAAH...
ALL THIS FOLIAGE IS BLINDING ...
HE HE HE ...
LUCKILY I HAVE SOME CHANGE ON ME
IT REMINDS ME OF MASAKI I SHOULDN'T KEEP ALL THIS CHANGE IN MY POCKET LIKE THE MEN DO
I ALWAYS TELL MYSELF THIS

IT MUST BE BECAUSE I SLEPT WELL
I FEEL REFRESHED
THIS IS GOOD
I FEEL RE-ENERGIZED

AH...
I.

IN LOVE...
YES! WHY?
NO IDEA
I'M IN LOVE WITH THE BOSS
O
O

SORRY
MUSAKI
"WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE LIKE THAT..."
AT LAST, SOME WHO
AND IT'S FINE THIS WAY.

UMEMIYA!
YOU'RE ALL ALONE TODAY!?
OUCH OUCH
YES THEY'RE ALL ABSENT
AND THE WHOLE NIGHT TEAM IS OFF! I'M BET THEY HAVE A HANGOVER!
I CAN STAY TIL IT'S TIME TO CLOSE. IF YOU WANT?

I W SN'T SERIOUS WITH YOU, I'M SORRY.

IT'S SO EASY...

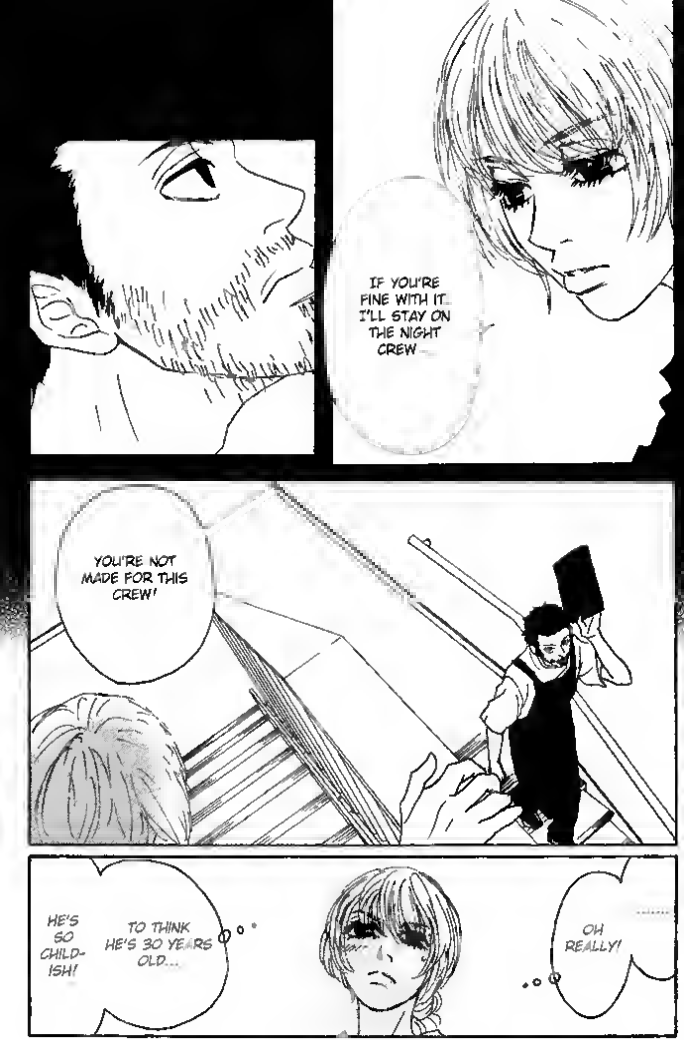
TO FALL...

IN LOVE...

WHAT DO YOU WANT...?

THAT WAS NICE OF YOU
I HAD A BAD PREMONITION AND I WASN'T WRONG
NO NEED TO THANK ME
THE NIGHT SHIFT PAYS WELL...
AND I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'LL TAKE ME HOME
SORRY ABOUT THIS MORNING
AH... ASIDE FROM THAT
I GOT TO SEE A NICE SHOW...
IT'S NOTHING
OH REALLY!

BOSS...
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
YES?
WHAT?
I LIKE THAT, DOING SOMETHING TASTELESS!
Hyaf-!
BECAUSE IT'S SO TASTELESS IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL!
FOR THE MEETING. CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING NORMAL?


IF YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, I'LL STAY ON THE NIGHT CREW
YOU'RE NOT MADE FOR THIS CREW!
HE'S SO CHILD-ISH!
TO THINK HE'S 30 YEARS OLD...
OH REALLY!

THAT KIND OF SITUATION REQUIRES TACT...
SEND HIM TO KANDA OR ME...
OH, IF THAT GUY COMES AGAIN...
"I'M COUNTING ON YOU."
THAT'S ALL...
WHAT...?!
"I'M COUNTING ON YOU..."
SHIT
I FEEL LIKE I'M MELTING
OK
"I'M COUNTING ON YOU!"

I UNDERSTAND NOW.

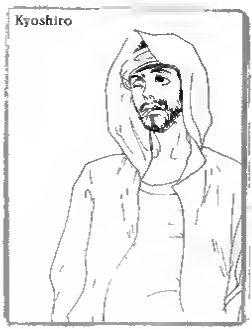
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT UNTIL NOW.

IT MAKES US HAPPY SEEING THE ONE WE LIKE DO WHAT WE TELL THEM TO DO.

ME TOO. I WAS LIKE A KID.

MY MENTAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MASAKI HAVE STOPPED.

BUT ONLY FOR NOW.


Kyoshiro

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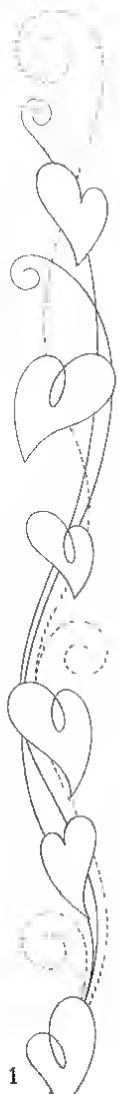


6

IT'S MY FOURTH TIME WORKING ON THE NIGHT SHIFT.

I GUESS YOU'RE TIRED...
THAT'S INEVITABLE, SINCE YOU WERE AT THE COUNTER THE WHOLE TIME...
IT'S ONLY A FIFTEEN MINUTE WALK UNTIL WE REACH OUR BLOCK
IT'S ALSO THE FOURTH TIME THAT WE'RE WALKING HOME TOGETHER.
BOSS, YOU SHOULD SHOW YOURSELF AT THE COUNTER!!
OF COURSE ...
TO FIND IN THE SUGGESTIONS BOX. "THE BEARDED EMPLOYEE IS REALLY UNPLEASANT."
WE WALK SIDE BY SIDE ..
UNDER THE MOON.
DON'T YOU FIND ME REALLY NICE AS WELL AS A LADY-KILLER?
NOT AT ALL.
YOU'RE LYING ....
WE CHAT ABOUT EVERYTHING AND NOTHING.
I SHOULD SHAVE IT.
...IT'S MY BEARD...

CHATTING VERY SUBTLY...

...ONCE AGAIN, I LOOK MORE LIKE A PART-TIMER THAN A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE...
DON'T LIE! YOU HAVE A CHILDISH FACE, THAT'S ALL!
YOU'LL SEE, WITHOUT IT, I'M A REALLY HANDSOME MAN.
BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO SEE YOU WITHOUT IT...

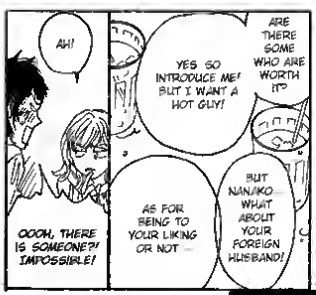
I GIVE REALLY STRANGE IMPRESSIONS.

BUT THEN...
IT MIGHT RUIN THESE 15 MINUTES!
WE COULD AT LEAST HOLD HANDS...
IT WOULD SURPRISE HIM, WOULDN'T IT? IF I HELD HIS HAND?
I WOULD LIKE
AND AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULDN'T LIKE

AND ALREADY,
AH
THESE SWEET MINUTES HAVE PASSED SO QUICKLY
THERE'S SOMETHING HANGING ON YOUR DOOR AGAIN
THIS TIME IT'S CUCUMBERS IT'S FROM AKARI
YEAH. ALL OF THE TOMATOES IN THE GARDEN HAVE BEEN USED UP.
CAN I KEEP THEM?
EAT THEM. SHE'LL BE HAPPY
IT'S PROBABLY OF COURSE AN APOLOGY FOR HER ATTITUDE THE OTHER NIGHT
AND EXCUSE HER. SHE'S REALLY NOT GOOD WITH CONVERSATIONS

SHE CAN "EXCUSE HERSELF"
THAT MEANS "EAT"?
"TAKE THAT"
IT'S FRESH, IT'S GOOD!
THANK YOU
THANKS
THAT IT'S STRANGE
BUT SHE INSISTS SO MUCH
"EAT THEM, SHE'LL BE HAPPY."
A ONE-SIDED LOVE AT MY AGE...
I HAVE TO SEIZE MY CHANCE
AND THEN?
WILL I TELL HIM?
CRUNCH
OF COURSE, I'LL EAT THEM

FOR ME, TO BE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, AND NOT TELL THAT PERSON, THAT'S NOT LOVE.
SORRY, BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
...I HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.


AH!
OOOH, THERE IS SOMEONE?! IMPOSSIBLE!
YES SO INTRODUCE ME! BUT I WANT A HOT GUY!
AS FOR BEING TO YOUR LIKING OR NOT...
ARE THERE SOME WHO ARE WORTH IT?
BUT NANAKO... WHAT ABOUT YOUR FOREIGN HUSBAND!

THERE'S NO HOPE SO SEARCH SOMEWHERE ELSE
THERE ARE ONLY GUYS ON THE NIGHT SHIFT RIGHT?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
DRAT!

KAWATANI! KAWATANI!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
OF COURSE...

ES BUT
HMM...
AH...
UMEMIYA...

I STOPPED WORKING HERE FOR AWHILE, BECAUSE I WAS WORKING AS A GUINEA PIG FOR MEDICATIONS
STRANGE... only who suits well with this strange T-shirt
OR DOES HE KEEP HIS CARDS CLOSE TO HIS CHEST?
HE WAS SLOSHED DID HE FORGET?
HEY! BUT
DID YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL?!
DOKI
WHOO!
IT'S REALLY NOTHING! IN THREE DAYS THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO SEE
AND THEY MADE ME SIGN A CONTRACT. SO I HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET
IT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE!!
TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PUS FULES.
MY ARMS ARE COVERED IN THEM.
MEETING!
HEY, YOU!
DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF?
RIGHT AWAY!
WHY?

TRIP
TRIP
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT, EVERYBODY
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
HEY?! UMEMIYA, CAN YOU COME HAVE A DRINK WITH US?
WHAT?!
DRAT!
BOSS ARE YOU TAKING HER HOME?
WELL WE'RE JUST NEIGHBORS
WHAT? WHAT?!
AS SOON AS YOU STARTED WORKING WITH US HE STARTED GETTING ON OUR NERVES WITH HIS "WAOOH WHAT A GIRL WAOOH WHAT A GIRL!"
THAT KAWATANI
IS HE IN A BAD MOOD?

PLOP
PLOP
AH
REALLY?
PLOP
PLOP
WHAT?
I TOLD YOU, HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, BUT HIS BRAIN IS EMPTY AND HE'S WEIRD
AND YOU...
DO YOU THINK ...
HE'S COM-PATIBLE WITH YOU?
PLOP
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU'RE RECOM-MENDING HIM TO ME RIGHT?

I WOULDN'T LIKE IT...
IF YOU WENT OUT WITH HIM
WHAT?
NUH UH
NOTHING

WHAT DID HE MEAN ?

HE HAS SOME NERVE...

I SAID:
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER
GO OUT WITH HIM...
WELL.
AH...
YEAH
OF COURSE.

YOU'LL GET WET
I CAN FEEL HIS WARMTH
IT FEELS GOOD
THANKS.
THE TRUTH IS, I REACTED TO...
THE SLIGHTEST CONTACT.

MAYBE THIS IS THE RIGHT SITUATION...
BUT...
AND SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN...
IN THIS NARROW SETTING THAT ALLOWS...
AND ALL THAT IS...
THE RAIN TO PREVENT US FROM HEARING, AND THAT THREATENS TO WET ME...
DELICATE...
AH...
ALREADY HERE.

AKARI
WHAT?!
AKARI!
WOOOOOO!
HOLY COW, SHE CUT ALL THE SUN-FLOWERS

THE LAST ITEMS THAT WERE GROWN IN THE GARDEN.
YEAH, SHE'S REALLY STRANGE LIKE THAT
ha ha ha
DO YOU THINK I CAN KEEP THEM?
TO GO SO FAR FOR ME
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE
I UNDER-STAND
SHE DID THE SAME THING TO ME, WHEN SHE WAS CRACKING UP.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S THINKING
PLEASE ACCEPT THEM.
BUT IT ISN'T OUT OF SPITE.
HE SAYS THAT, BUT HE DOESN'T REALLY SEEM TO BE BOTHERED
APOLOGIES?
OR AN EVIL SPELL?

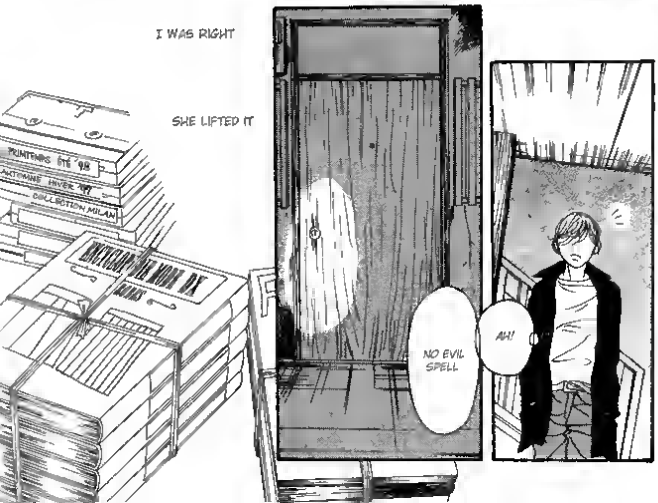
I HAD FLOWERS AT MY DOOR.
THE NEXT DAY
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT
DURING OUR VERY SUBTLE 15 MINUTES
AND NOTHING HAPPENED
Beep
Beep
SO IT CAN ONLY BE AKARI
THE BOSS HAS TO BE AT WORK ALREADY
WHY NOT
BUT
SINCE IT MAKES BOTH OF US HAPPY

slide
EVIL SPELL
FOR HER VERY EFFICIENT
I WANT TO THANK HER.
EW!
HUH...
SLAM
SHE AVOIDED ME
HONESTLY...

A GARDEN THAT WAS SO NICELY KEPT
IT'S NOT NICE TO SEE
WITHOUT FLOWERS ANYMORE
AND HAS THE EVIL SPELL
ALSO BEEN LIFTED?
UMEMIYA, YOU WORK THIS AFTERNOON?
OH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, DO YOU DO SOMETHING ELSE?
WHAT? IS IT A BENTO FOR A DOWN AND-OUT?
AW with MUSIC TOO
salt, pepper
NOT REALLY
White rice
AH! A BENTO! GOOOOD!
BESIDES THE BOSS ISN'T HERE
YES

AND I WORK IN COMPUTER GRAPHICS
LATIN-AMERICAN SONGS
FOR EXAMPLE, HE SINGS...
IN THIS TEAM, EVERYBODY DOES SOMETHING OUTSIDE...
AN ACTRESS?
SOME-THING ELSE?
OR MAYBE A MOVIE DIREC-TOR?
AND YOU WHAT DO YOU DO?
Tenorio he's in theatre
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
AAAH
SORRY FOR CREATING AN AWKWARD SITUATION...
THAT'S WHAT EVERY-BODY SAYS, AT FIRST
WELL, PEOPLE SAY THAT
NO, I'M NOT JOKING
BUT. I DON'T DO ANYTHING!
YES... I SEE...
LET'S JUST SAY, I'M ONLY TRYING TO NOT STARVE TO DEATH...

I THOUGHT I GREW OUT OF IT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
THIS KIND OF IMPATIENCE
THE BOXES IN MY ROOM
I HAVE TO TIDY UP...


I WAS RIGHT
SHE LIFTED IT
PAINTINGS 17TH '98
ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS
NO EVIL SPELL
AH!

IT SEEMS
THAT I ONLY MESS THINGS UP
OUMPF
MOVE
DID THEY HAVE AN ARGUMENT??
MOST OF THE NOISE IS COMING FROM HER, ISN'T IT?
THE BOXES' BARRICADE SHIELDED THE NOISE...
OBVIOUSLY THE WALL IS REALLY THIN RIGHT HERE...
MH?
GIRL, DON'T BE SO VULGAR
~SILENCE~

OUCH OOOUUCH
But why?
HOUA
HOUA
DID THEY MAKE UP!?
AH, WELL?
THIS TIME IT'S MUSIC.
HA HA HA
LET'S THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE!
I HAVE TO GET USED TO IT
BASICALLY, IT'S NORMAL.
WE'RE NEIGHBORS

WE DON'T EVEN HOLD HANDS
NO LOVE IN SIGHT
A STRANGE 3 MINUTES AND THAT'S ALL
ENORMOUS

TRUE.
AKARI
SHE KNOWS THAT I GO HOME WITH YOU?
YEAH
OH
NO.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW.

MAYBE. WELL, LEAVE IT AT THAT. HIM AND ME.
WHAT WILL THAT SET INTO MOTION?
MORE OF AMARI'S EVIL SPELL.
IT RAINS AGAIN?
AND IF...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT.
HAPPINESS ON THE HORIZON
I CAN NO LONGER FORESEE
AND YET, THE GARDEN IS EMPTY...
OH?
AH!
BUT...

Ouuha ha ha
Ouuha ha ha
SEAWEED! WHAT AN IDEA...
S SEA...
日高昆布
WHAT?
Snatch
W—
U WELL
I'LL TEL...
I DON'T WANT THEM...!
IT'S OVER, I NO LONGER WANT ANY-THING—!

ER
grab

ANY WEIRD REASONS
DON'T GIVE ME
AH
ARE YOU TRYING TO ATTRACT A UFO?
W... WELL
I MANAGED TO DO IT, AND IT'S OVER

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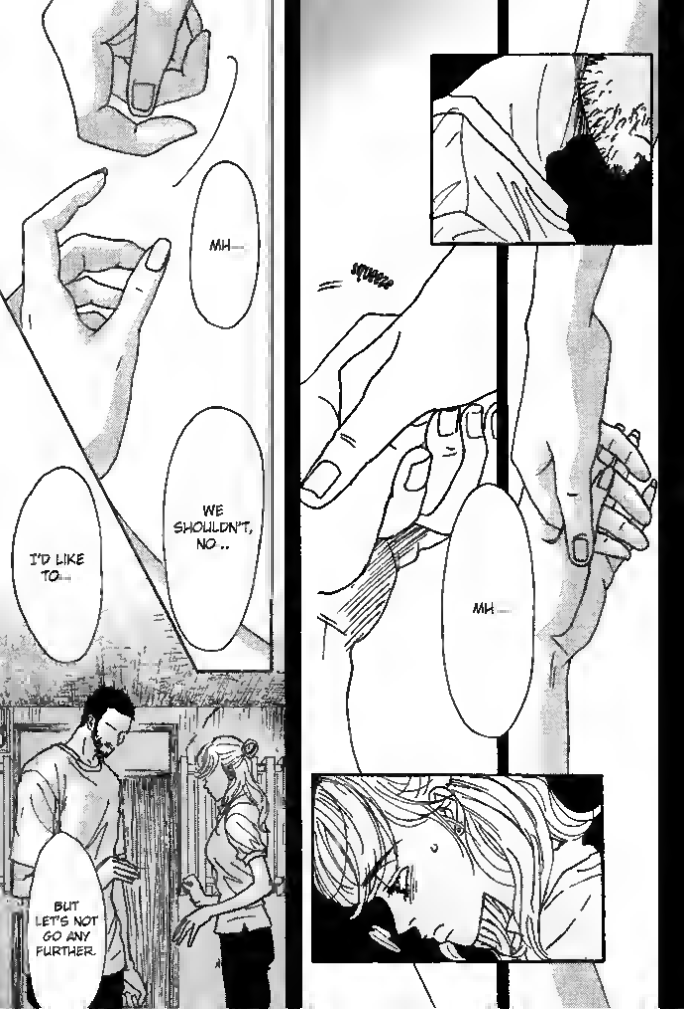
7

W...
WELL...

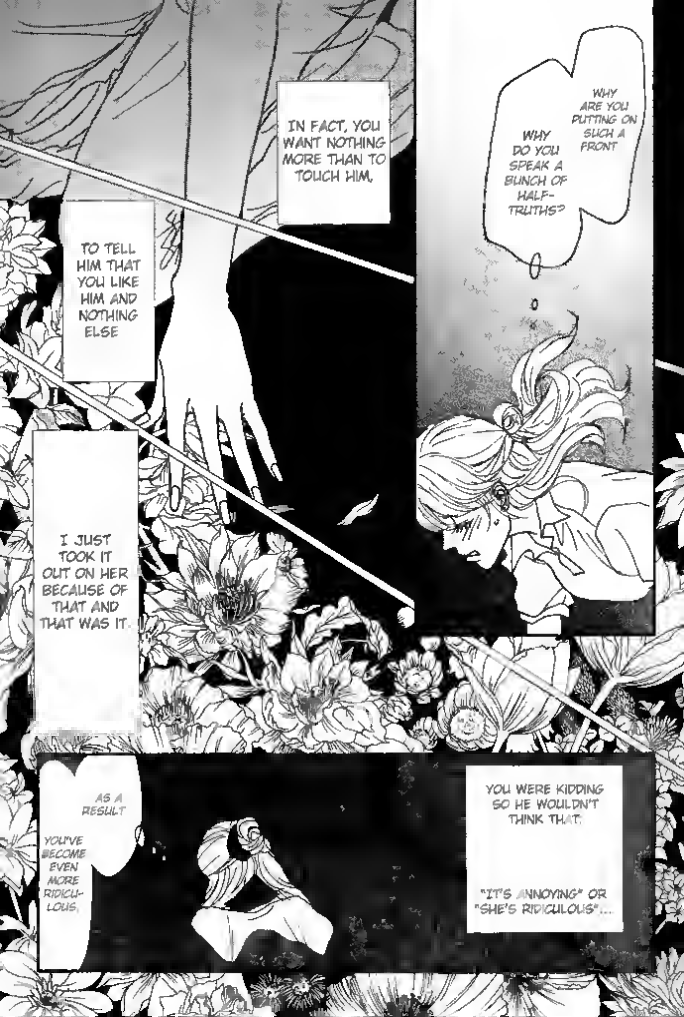

MH...
WE SHOULDN'T, NO ..
I'D LIKE TO...
BUT LET'S NOT GO ANY FURTHER.
MH...

CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, I DON'T INTEND ON BREAKING UP WITH HER.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE CAUSE OF...
THE SPLIT...
ALL THIS IS...

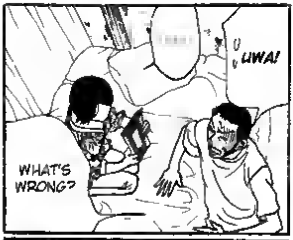
MY FAULT.
SORRY.
I SIMPLY...
THAT'S NOT IT!
.....
NO!
I...
YEAH. LET'S GET MARRIED
BUT SHE WANTED YOU MORE OUT
PEOPLE SUCK
LOVE YOU, THAT'S ALL...

REALLY, YOU'RE RIGHT TO BE FRANK
I FELT THAT MY ILLUSIONS WERE GROWING GRADUALLY.
EVEN I WOULDN'T WANT TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE.
...
FORGIVE ME.
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE.
NO.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY.
GOOD NIGHT.

SLAM
.....
AA
AH


WHY ARE YOU PUTTING ON SUCH A FRONT
WHY DO YOU SPEAK A BUNCH OF HALF-TRUTHS?
IN FACT, YOU WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO TOUCH HIM,
TO TELL HIM THAT YOU LIKE HIM AND NOTHING ELSE
I JUST TOOK IT OUT ON HER BECAUSE OF THAT AND THAT WAS IT.
YOU WERE KIDDING SO HE WOULDN'T THINK THAT.
"IT'S ANNOYING" OR "SHE'S RIDICULOUS"...
AS A RESULT
YOU'VE BECOME EVEN MORE RIDICULOUS.

.....
...MASAKI FORCED ME TO SAY IT TO HIM.
MAYBE I'VE NEVER BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU."
I WAS SO ASHAMED. IN FACT, I DIDN'T WANT TO.
BUT I THINK I WAS ALWAYS KIDDING WITH ALL MY EX-BOYFRIENDS AS WELL
NOT ONLY THAT...
I WONDER WHEN THIS FEELING STARTED TO TAKE OVER.


UWA!
WHAT'S WRONG?

THIS SEA-WEED
WHAT IS IT DOING HERE...?
HUH?!

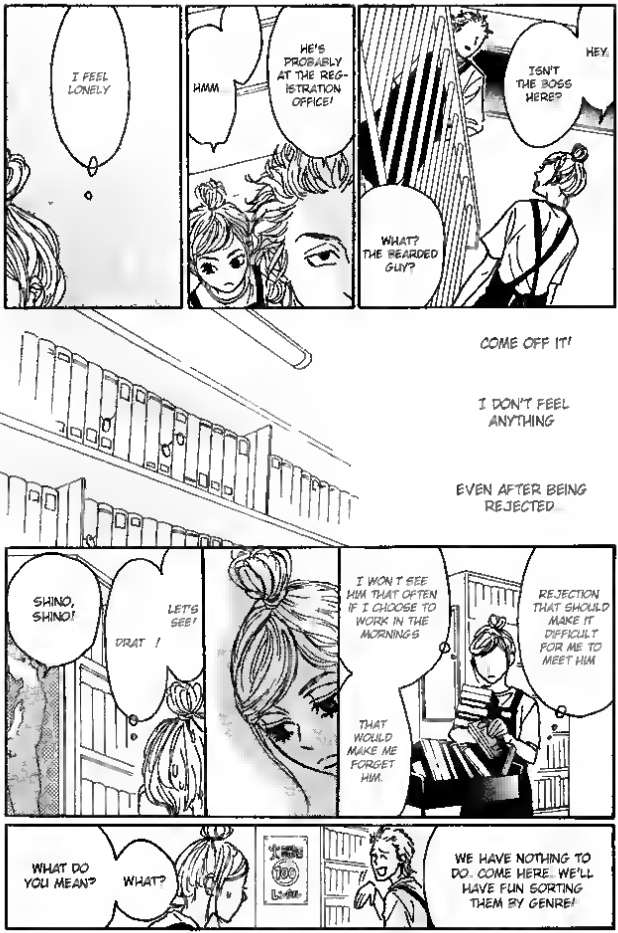
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN WITH THAT GIRL
IN-STEAD IT'S HERE

SH...
IT WAS AT OUR DOOR.
SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT IT?!
OK...

UWAAA!
日高
昆布

NOT FOR THE MOMENT...
TELL ME...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US...
AKARI...
NOR CAN YOU TELL WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING TO YOU...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIE...
WELL, GOOD.
IT PROBABLY EMBARRASSES HER
AND WHAT IF YOU STOPPED YOUR GAMES!?
AND I'M NOW A MAIL-LADY.
I TOLD THEM: "I WANT TO WORK AT HOME"
I'M HAPPY.
THE TRUTH IS, I STOPPED WORKING AT THE COMPANY THIS MONTH...
...EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS
CAN I KISS YOU?
PULL
I'M WARNING YOU, I'M KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU
ALWAYS
OK, OK
KEEP AN EYE ON ME, IF THAT'LL REASSURE YOU
TRIP
THAT'S ALL
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
I'm counting on you!


I FEEL LONELY
HMM
HE'S PROBABLY AT THE REGISTRATION OFFICE!
HEY.
ISN'T THE BOSS HERE?
WHAT? THE BEARDED GUY?
COME OFF IT!
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING
EVEN AFTER BEING REJECTED...
SHINO, SHINO!
LET'S SEE!
DRAT !
I WON'T SEE HIM THAT OFTEN IF I CHOOSE TO WORK IN THE MORNINGS
THAT WOULD MAKE ME FORGET HIM.
REJECTION THAT SHOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MEET HIM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT?
WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO. COME HERE. WE'LL HAVE FUN SORTING THEM BY GENRE!

WHAT?! YOU CHANGED THE DEPARTMENTS' NAMES?!
MH...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA FOR THE TITLE OR EVEN A THEME...?
UH-HUH HERE'S ANIME AND PORNOGRAPHIC YAOI...
Erotic / Others
YOUTHFUL SIN
Dangerous Summer for High Schoolers
ONLY TWO...
Space erotica anime...
I WOULD PREFER SOMETHING ELSE OTHER THAN JUST "SPACE-ERO"*...
YUP... I FIND THE NAME "OTHERS" ISN'T THAT GOOD
THIS CHARACTER, HERE FOR "MEN"... PRONOUNCE IT "NON" AND YOU HAVE
NOT VERY ORIGINAL...
HARD TO UNDER-STAND... AND "FIESTA"** BETWEEN MEN"?
PINK NIGHT SWEETS
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
IF YOU'RE FREE CAN'T YOU HELP ME...

*"ERO=EROTIC

**"FIESTA" MEANS "PARTY" IN SPANISH

"NONSENSE" THAT MEANS "THE ABSURDITY OF MEN"
HAHAA-HAHAH!
IT'S GOOD! YOU'RE REALLY STUPID, HONESTLY...
DUMPED ME? COME OFF IT!
GREAT....
I'M NOT JOKING. WELL DONE...
WHAT?

YEAH, RIGHT! YOU DREAMING OR WHAT?
YEAH. WELL DONE! WANNA GO OUT TOGETHER?
AH!
I'LL TAKE A BREAK
HE'S A MYSTERY
THAT KAWATANI
Flap
I actually laughed at that pathetic joke. He's stupid
AND I THINK HE'S JOKING

BOSS...
YOU'RE HERE.

CLACK
YEAH.
WORK'S GOOD?

MOVE OVER, PLEASE...
AH! S'CUSE ME...

WERE YOU AT THE REGISTRATION OFFICE?
Is that why you had your hair trimmed?
YEAH

IT'S PROBABLY LIKE THIS...
SO THIS IS WHAT REJECTION FEELS LIKE...
IT MAKES SENSE THAT I WOULD FEEL THIS WAY.
BECAUSE HIS BEHAVIOR REALLY MAKES ME FEEL IT...

BUT
I'M HAPPY TO KNOW THAT HE'S
SOME-WHERE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME...
HERE, PLEASE
DO YOU HAVE A MEMBER CARD...?
WHAT? THE BOSS IS HERE!?
AH!
WE CAN'T HANDLE THIS, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT!
AND THERE'RE ONLY 3 OF US! SEND ANOTHER PERSON OVER!

HE'S TALKING WITH A CUSTOMER
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha
OUR BEARDED BOSS !
TRIP

OK
THANK YOU...
SO, WE SAY 8 DAYS?
"I DON'T INTEND TO BREAK UP WITH AKIRI."
NORMAL, BASIC...
THIS SENSATION, IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I LAST FELT IT..
THANKS FOR VISITING!
ITS TRUE THAT I FELT IT, BUT...

BOSS, YOU'RE PRETTY FAST WITH THE RETURNED VIDEOTAPES...
...BAH.
IT'S A MATTER OF HABIT.
Y... YES...

LISTEN
HE WALKS FAST
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WANTS TO SAY "LEAVE ME ALONE"...
STARTING NEXT WEEK...
DO YOU WANT TO QUIT THE NIGHT-SHIFT TEAM?
COMING BACK HOME WITH ME ACTUALLY BOTHERS YOU, RIGHT?

...ABSOLUTELY NOT!
...WELL, IT BOTHERS ME.
IT REALLY ANNOYS ME.
...OH, NO...
DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT...
THAT'S ALL...
AH...
IT'S A SLIP OF THE TONGUE!
...
I WANTED TO SAY...
HUH
HUH...

I...

HUUUH... I LIKE Y...
AH!
YES!
I LIKE YOU!
I LIKE YOU
I.. I I'M SO LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO WORK NEAR YOU!
BUT I'LL TELL YOU AGAIN...
THANKS, I UNDERSTOOD!
AND BESIDES, TO JUST LIVE...
NEAR YOU
I'M REALLY LUCKY!
WHAT LUCK!
WHAT?
WHAT?!

I PROMISE YOU I'LL NO LONGER TOUCH YOU. I'LL BE GOOD.
I'LL NOT SPEAK ABOUT IT AGAIN.
YOU CAN IGNORE MY PRESENCE.
BUT... PLEASE LET ME GO BACK HOME WITH YOU!
YOU CAN...

AH!
DASH
BYE!
CRY IF YOU WANT!
YOU
AND BESIDES
I HAVE STRONG LEGS!
BUT WE'RE HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION!
STOP FOLLOWING ME!
YOU ANNOY ME!
YOU'RE NOT NORMAL, SHIT!

YOU'RE NUTS!
I WANT TO TELL IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!
I'M MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU!
IT'S TRUE, I'M NOT NORMAL!
I'VE TOTALLY LOST ALL OF MY SENSES!
NEVER FELT...
I'VE NEV...
SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
AT LEAST LET ME CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME!?

YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!
OTHER-WISE IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
A GUY LIKE ME!
DAMMIT, I—!
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU...
IT'S TRUE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

Piece of Cake vol.1 End
To be continued

Piece of Cake

George ASAKURA

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